FBIS DAILY REPORT

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Vol VI No 061 *29 March 1983*

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REPORTS ON STRIKE'S SUCCESS IN BUENOS AIRES

PY281507 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1337 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (TELAM) -- The 24-hour strike ordered by the two national labor union confederations, which the Argentine Government declared illegal yesterday, is being compiled with throughout the nation. Even though there is a significant lack of activities in this capital, a few public transportation vehicles can be seen carrying a few passengers. Stores, especially those that sell foodstuffs, are gradually beginning to open.

A tour around the city and its suburbs disclosed that none of the urban railroad lines -- Mitre, Belgrano and San Martin -- were operating at 0930 at Retiro Station and subway line C, which links this area with Plaza Constitucion, was not working either. The gates to the subway station remain closed.

Only five morning dailies came out this morning. LA PRENSA, LA VOZ and CONVICCION did not appear, although it must be noted that the latter never comes out on Monday.

The first report from the central police department indicated that at 0830 the situation was quiet throughout the city and no incidents of any kind whatsoever had taken place.

At the Ezeiza International Airport, few Aerolineas Argentinas employees were present; only the heads of sections and other high-ranking officials. No flights of this company have left the airport, but incoming flights from abroad are operationg normally. Foreign companies like Swissair, Panam, Varig, Lan Chile and South African Airlines are scheduled to depart normally.

Court activities are markedly slack and only the secretaries and high-ranking personnel have come to work. Meanwhile, the radio stations are staging symbolic 5-minute stoppages every hour.

Miguel Rios, leader of the Motor Transport Workers Union (UTA), told TELAM that "Our union is complying with the strike 98 percent. Subways and long-distance bus lines have ceased operating altogether while short distance lines have a few busses running driven by their owners. All this allows us to say that the stoppage is being complied with almost 100 percent," Rios said.

Luis Etchezar, leader of La Fraternidad Union and Rodolfo Masciotta of the Railway Workers Union confirmed that railroad workers are striking 100 percent except for convoys going to flooded areas, a measure which was decided upon yesterday.

Interior Ministry Communique

PY291139 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2217 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (DYN) -- The Interior Ministry has admitted that the stoppage that was called for today by the two labor centrals was observed 100 percent in the industrial belt of the greater Buenos Aires metropolitican area and that there was complete inactivity in the public transportation services.

In an official communique, the Interior Ministry reported that the stoppage was also observed by domestic and international airline companies. The communique stated: "There was complete inactivity at Austral and Aerolineas Argentinas."

It added, however, that services of foreign airline companies from and to Ezeiza International Airport were normal. The communique also stated that the services of some medium- and long-range transporation companies were "irregular" because fewer transport services were needed to carry the reduced number of passengers, the majority of whom referred to change their reservations to those days on which services would be normal. The communique added that the stoppage was complete at the metropolitan port, where none of the usual activities took place today.

Service stations that either sell YPF [Government Oil Deposits] products or belong to the Argentine Automobile Club "operated almost normally," said the communique, although it admitted that about 80 percent of other service stations did not operate.

Banking activity was limited to the work carried out by high-ranking officials, who provided credit services to the public, but in a limited way since more than 90 percent of the personnel of the banking sector adhered to the stoppage.

In Buenos Aires shops, absenteeism was estimated at 80 percent, while a high percentage of those shops that do not have employees opened their doors.

The communique stated that in markets and supermarkets there was 50 percent absenteeism, while in Buenos Aires public schools "only between 20 and 40 percent of the teachers showed up." In this regard, the communique added that the number of teachers at private schools was "normal," although absenteeism among students in both private and public schools was 95 percent.

CGT-Azopardo Communique

PY291115 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2340 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (TELAM) -- The CGT-Azopardo [General Labor Confederation on Azopardo Street] asserted in a communique tonight that the strike it organized for today was observed with complete order throughout the country. The CGT stated that among other things, it had organized the strike in order to voice the Argentine people's desire to live in democracy since it is the only path which will allow us to regain social justice.

The CGT communique points out: We are very happy with the success of the strike, and this once again goes to show that the CGT-Azopardo not only represents the great majority of the workers' movement, but also its most distinguished and reliable members. The communique then states that the CGT-Azopardo had sound reasons to order the measure, and that it leads this national movement which seeks the fulfillment of claims which have been repeatedly proposed and raised: salaries, employment, economic reactivation, collective bargaining, normalization of labor unions, the return of social facilities and benefits. The communique mentions freedom, development, justice, the people's participation and national sovereignty as some of the other issues which Argentina demands.

In addition to stating that the strike was called in order to express the Argentine people's desire to live in democracy, the communique says that the entire country supported the measure because it was designed to achieve a political goal: to restore justice through democracy.

The CGT-Azopardo communique ends by stating that the success of the strike represents a political success because politics was the reason for and essence of the strike. By defending justice, it has defended the highest value of political order which, according to Pope John Paul II, is the new name for common welfare.

CGT-Azopardo Leaders

PY281910 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1535 GMT Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (TELAM) -- Union leaders Jorge Triacca and Jose Rodriguez, secretaries general of the CGT [General Labor Confederation] on Azopardo Street and of the Union of Mechanics and Related Automative Transport Workers [SMATA], respectively, commented on the current situation of the workers' strike in two different radio reports.

Triacca stated that the workers' movement has adopted a position of total disagreement with the economic and social policy implemented by the government, not only because of the economic crisis caused by the current situation, but because it jeopardizes the country's institutional future. He said: I feel that we all want to achieve the institutionalization of the country, both the armed forces and the people in general. Therefore, we feel that the government must correct matters, and we are making use of a right to which the president of the nation himself referred by saying that we Argentines should get used to living with it. It is the right to strike. He explained that this measure has no other objective than to make the government correct its economic and social policy. He added that there is no other fallback position.

Jose Rodriguez also stated that if we do not start catching up regarding salaries now, later, when we have a democratic government, we will have to catch up all the way, and that will be impossible. Rodriguez, SMATA's last secretary general before the military intervention, stated: We feel that [the direction of] this economy has not changed and that the same policy adopted by the country in 1976 with Martinez de Hoz has been retained. He also criticized the performance of the CGT-Azopardo Street, and noted: Had we shouted all together in due time, perhaps we could have avoided several things that are happening in the country now.

CGT-RA Leader

PY281641 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1533 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (NA) -- Saul Ubaldini, secretary general of the Argentine General Labor Confederation, CGT-RA (Brazil faction), today ruled out the possibility of reopening dialogue with the government "on the basis of promises," because "after 7 years of failures these promises are worthless," and demanded "a structural change" in government social and economic policies.

Ubaldini described today's strike as "a success for the workers movement supported by the Argentine people as a whole," which "strengthens the demands which have been made" on the government. The labor leader indicated that the support for the strike "was a nationwide plebiscite which shows popular opposition to this social and economic program we are burdened with."

Ubaldini, interviewed by Radio Continental, said that "The struggle against unemployment and hunger-level salaries are the main targets." He emphasized: "We want solutions, not promises. We want an acknowledgement of the real situation, because figures cannot be juggled around without knowing for sure how much the family basket now costs."

The union leader went on to say that "This period of transition toward a constitutional government should be used to seek solutions so that when elections come, the future government will not be burdened by the serious problems which we Argentines are having to cope with nowadays." Ubaldini insisted that solutions must be found because "promises are worthless after 7 years of failures." He summed up by saying that "We believe that a new socioeconomic policy, a new structural change in every aspect must be implemented."

The secretary general of the CGT-RA said that he was a "fervent champion" of the unity of the labor movement. "We have tried to bring it about and we believe that we will achieve it," he said in response to questions concerning the possibility of a merger between the two labor confederations. Ubaldini added that once the unions are normalized, and in the course of this process "their members become free to state their opinions without interference," the various unions will come under the umbrella of a single CGT.

Union Leaders Questioned by Police

PY281747 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1607 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (DYN) -- Saul Ubaldini, secretary general of the Brazil faction of the General Labor Confederation, CGT-RA, and other leaders of this organization were taken in for questioning at noon today by the office of the Superintendent for Federal Security as a result of the strike launched this morning, according to union sources. In addition to Ubaldini, Press Secretary Ricardo Perez (truckdrivers) and Executive Board member Luis Pecora (Construction Workers Union) were also asked to make statements.

The sources of the CGT, Brazil faction, did not feel that the operation which involved the union leaders could be viewed as an arrest. Ubaldini and the other leaders were picked up at the headquarters of the CGT at 1482 Brazil Street by cars from the office of the Superintendent for Federal Security driven by officers of that bureau.

[Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish at 1628 GMT on 28 March reports that CGT leader Saul Ubaldini was "talking" with the heads of the federal security bureau about the demonstration which his organization is preparing to hold on 30 March. Police sources clarified that "the union leader is not under arrest."]

Statement Upon Release

PY281957 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1910 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Saul Ubaldini, secretary general of the General Labor Confederation [CGT-Brasil St], has admitted the possibility that new measures of force will be carried out, because "they are necessary for resolving the serious crisis that we are experiencing," he stated that the march that has been planned for the day after tomorrow will take place even if the government bans it.

Ubaldini made there remarks during a press conference that he gave after having testified before officials of the Superintendency of Federal Security, who called him in, along with other leaders of the CGT that he leads, to remind him about the legal measures in force banning labor activities and strikes.

Truckers' Leader Arrested

PY281756 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1610 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Parana, 28 Mar (NA) -- This morning the local police arrested Angel Vivanco, leader of the truckdrivers union, who is apparently being accused of having scattered devices that caused flat tires to ensure that his sector complied with the strike ordered by the two branches of the General Labor Confederation, CGT.

Vivanco, secretary general of the truckdrivers union, which has joined the Argentine General Labor Confederation, CGT-RA, is being held at the fourth precinct police station in this provincial capital.

In the meantime, the 24-hour strike which the two nationwide labor organization had ordered was being complied with in this province without any disruptions of public order.

Montoneros Broadcast Supports Strike

PY282206 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2040 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (NA) -- The audio broadcast of ATC [Argentina Televisora Color] Channel 7 was interrupted for half an hour and a statement in support of today's stoppage was read. The statement was attributed to the Montoneros subversive organization. According to reports, the interruption took place last night between 2210 and 2230 and affected the television broadcasts in a wide area of the western sector of the greater Buenos Aires metropolitan area. However, police sources said they had no knowledge of the incident.

The interruption was clearly heard in Haedo and Ramos Mejia. After the broadcast of the Peronist march, a recorded version by Hugo del Carril, a women's voice announced that this was a broadcast of "Radio Liberacion." The voice noted that "Companero Diaz, member of the Montoneros board," would speak.

Diaz urged the people to support the strike and praised the attitude of the CGT and of "Companero Saul Ubaldini." He also demanded the freedom of political prisoners and union leaders and the holding of elections "with the participation of all citizens." The voice harshly condemned Martinez de Hoz, Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe and the military government. Before the interruption last night, an anonymous phone call alerted the media about the interruption in the broadcast of some television channels. This was also done through messages left in bars located near the various media.

SAFECONDUCT FOR FONTEVECCHIA TO BE GRANTED

PY282110 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1610 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (NA) -- This morning Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari disclosed that the Argentine Government will grant Jorge Fontevecchia, editor of the magazine LA SEMANA, a safeconduct when the official request is made.

When he was leaving the San Martin Cultural Center where the meeting of the Group of 77 is taking place, Aguirre Lanari stated that "So far, the Venezuelan Embassy has made no official request" for Fontevecchia to be able to leave for Caracas. However, he pointed out, "The Foreign Ministry will have a favorable answer as soon as the request is made, which could be today."

At the same time, the Foreign Ministry refrained from confirming or denying whether President Reynaldo Bignone would travel to Belgrade (Yugoslavia) in June to participate in the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). He stated that the final decision on the alleged presidential trip will be made "at the appropriate time, once the agenda of the meeting is disclosed."

AGUIRRE LANARI OPENS GROUP OF 77 MEETING

PY280220 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1445 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (TELAM) -- Today Argentine Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari said that the men of the South have met in order to try and reach a position which will be understandable and worthy of our Northern interlocutors' attention, and added that the Buenos Aires meeting can't afford to be one of hesitant positions.

In opening the 5th conference of the Group of 77 today, the Argentine foreign minister addressed the representatives of 125 member countries of the Third World bloc. This is a preparatory meeting to the summit of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to be held in June in Belgrade.

In his speech, Aguirre Lanari stated that we have met with the purpose of establishing a common position in view of the summit to be held in Belgrade, where we hope to find definite and positive solutions to the problems and challenges of these difficult times.

The minister pointed out that nobody can afford not to participate in the so-called North-South dialogue, and added that if the intransigence that seems to accompany the greater degree of development keeps the unrealistic idea alive that there can be exclusions in the North-South dialogue, this dialogue, despite our good will and intentions, will result in a confrontation, which is dangerous at a time of crisis.

Aguirre Lanari also said: We do not want the efforts that we make to achieve development to be supported through vague promises or isolated actions which in the long run will result in an even more dramatic economic situation than what we have experienced in the past. Then he reviewed socioeconomic development in Latin America for 1982.

Aguirre Lanari noted that the total GDP decreased by almost 1 percent and the per capita income by 3 percent. Moreover, he said that the per capita income decreased in each and every one of the 19 countries for which the ECLA has available comparative information. He said that this had not happened in the last four decades, and noted that last year the deficit in the Latin American foreign sector totaled the unprecedented sum of $14 billion despite the efforts to achieve genuine resources and despite the fact that the surplus totaled $600 million in 1981 as opposed to the $8.8 billion surplus in 1982.

Aguirre Lanari said that this sum gives an idea of the seriousness of the situation that Latin America is confronting, and said that our nations are still wondering what the reason for all this is. He said: It is time to tell them that -- aside from our mistakes or our successful measures -- the level of our foreign debt, the stagnation in our development, the contraction of new imports, the difficulties in placing our exports, the unfair prices we receive for our products; in sum, this unjust situation, is caused by an inadequate international economic structure, whose mechanisms and defenses have been overcome by the selfish mistake of not listening to our predictions and claims at the proper time.

He later discussed the birth of the South bloc and noted: This is why we are here, so that the South may be a single voice at the negotiating table with those who do not have the right to decide the fate of the world.

He added that while the North argues and negotiates on where to place nuclear missiles to keep the balance of terror; invests huge sums for new colonialist adventures, for maintaining the monopoly on technology or for subsidizing their inconcealable commercial conflicts, the men of the South strive to make our development viable and in many cases to achieve minimum levels of subsistence, of health, of education, of housing, and of work for us and for our sons.

Aguirre Lanari later listed the structure and operation of the work committees that make up the technical debate sessions of the fifth conference and praised the work of the preparatory commission. He also praised the meetings held in Baghdad by the Asian group; in Libreville by the African group; and in Cartagena by the Latin American group, all of which were held prior to this meeting. He said that those meetings are the backbone of this meeting since they established the strategies [to follow].

He said that the Buenos Aires meeting must summarize the thinking of the South and must be the catalyst for government officials, specialists and experts, who united would make the effort for achieving a systematic, concise and pragmatic position that will allow us to confront the Belgrade meeting with the moral authority that results from the certainty that our proposals are in keeping with reality: a reality that is substantially different from that which existed at the end of World War II when the Breton Woods system was established.

He urged the representatives to establish realistic and serious proposals to take to the Belgrade meeting and warned about the possibility of losing political power and credibility. Moreover, Aguirre Lanari noted the need for North-South cooperation and mentioned the concept of collective economic security and self-sufficiency in foodstuffs.

He ended his speech by noting that the men of the South can feel at home in the fatherland of the Argentines.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES 12 PERCENT PAY HIKE

PY280224 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 26 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] The government announced salary increases in a decree issued after a meeting between President Reynaldo Bignone and the social and economic cabinet which was held yesterday. The main points of the decree are the following:

.12 percent increase for each of the next three months for salaries below 10 million pesos.

A fixed increase of 1.2 million pesos for each of the next three months for salaries over 10 million pesos.

A fixed bonus of 500,000 pesos only for March salaries which are below 10 million pesos and are included in the collective wage agreements.

The minimum salary was set at 7 million pesos.

The minimum salary per day was set at 280,000 or 35,000 the hour.

Before the salary increases were made public, Buenos Aires province gas-station owners announced that they will request from Energy Minister Alieto Guadagni an increase in their profit margin in order to increase the salaries of their personnel.

SOVIET CIVIL AVIATION DEPUTY MINISTER ARRIVES

PY281918 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1657 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (TELAM) -- Ivan Vasin, deputy minister of civil aviation of the USSR, who arrived today in Argentina from Moscow on board to aeroflot inaugural flight, said that "We have always supported the Argentines during the conflict over the Malvinas Islands," and stressed that the relations between the two nations are very good.

After recalling that Aeroflot has been operating for 60 years, Vasin indicated that the Moscow-Buenos Aires flight with stopovers in East Berlin and Dakar took 22 hours to cover 15,000 kms. He also said that "the increase of Aeroflot flights to Latin America and the reactivation of our cooperation enables us to feel that air links between the Soviet Union and the Latin American countries continue to develop."

The Soviet official concluded by saying that "within the framework of our quite complicated international situation marked by the growth of tension and the military threat for the people of the USSR and of all the nations of our planet, there is no more important task than to struggle to consolidate peace, to avert nuclear war and to improve international relations."

[Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish at 1357 GMT on 28 March reports the airport welcoming committee was made up of USSR Ambassador to Argentina Sergey Striganov; chief of airport Col Rogelio Morla; and central air region commander Col Luis Etchegoyen.]

PRESIDENT MEETS SPAIN'S GONZALEZ, MORAN

PY281534 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Constitutional President Hernan Siles Zuazo met with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez during his 16-hour stopover in Spain prior to his arrival in France. The Bolivian president, who made a 16-hour technical stopover in Madrid en route to France, met with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and with Foreign Minister Fernando Moran for more than 1 hour. Siles Zuazo told the news agency EFE that the objectives pursued by his government were exactly the same as those of Felipe Gonzalez's administration, adding that subjects of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting.

As for the Central American issue, Siles stated that he agreed with Gonzalez regarding contributing toward restoring peace in the area. Felipe Gonzalez -- who saw Siles off at the gate of (?government] palace -- told EFE that the fraternal relations between two countries, linked by historic ties, were discussed during the meeting. The Bolivian president concluded by stating that Spain had shipped a load of wheat to Bolivia yesterday, adding that the visit he will pay to Spain in April will strengthen cultural and trade relations between the two countries.

Arrival in Paris

NC281016 Paris AFP in English 1005 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Paris, March 83 (AFP) -- Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo arrived here today for a 48-hour official visit and talks with President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy. The visit of Mr Siles Zuazo, who came to power last October after years of military rule, coincides with a warming in relations between the two countries after the extradition of Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie to France. He was accompanied by Bolivian Foreign Minister Mario Velarde Dorado and the minister for planning, Arturo Nunez del Prado. Talks will centre on improving cooperation and sources here said that France wanted to increase its aid to Bolivia from the current five million francs ($715,000) a year, and planned to encourage its European Economic Community partners to help in rebuilding Bolivia's economy.

PRESIDENT SUBMITS VOTING BILL TO CONGRESS

PY272158 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Mar 83 p 6

[Text] The president of the republic submitted a mixed district voting bill to Congress yesterday. No deadline has been set for passing the bill, which envisions proportionate and majority voting for the election of state and federal deputies. The bill was handed over by Minister Leitao de Abreu, chief of the civilian cabinet, to Fernando Lyra, PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] deputy for Pernambuco State and first secretary of the Chamber of Deputies. The bill's preamble has been written by Justice Minister Ibrahim Abi-Ackel.

The bill will be studied by the chamber's Justice Committee, although there is every reason to believe that a subcommittee will be appointed to study it before it is sent to the floor. It will then be passed to the Senate, but the bill will surely not be approved by the constitutional time-limit mechanism. Murilo Badaro, the Senate's second top-ranking leader of the PDS [Social Democratic Party] -- the government party -- has reiterated his willingness to submit a substitute bill to the Senate Justice Committee. Badaro's bill envisions the election of two-thirds of the deputies by district vote and one third by the current proportional system. In the opinion of its sponsor, a Minas Gerais senator, the bill -- which Badaro regards only as a contribution -- will not challenge the bill sponsored by the president.

Under the government-sponsored bill, half the number of federal deputies would be elected by district vote, the remaining half would be elected by proportional vote, and if the number of legislators turns out to be odd, the extra deputy would go to the majority party. States and territories will be divided into as many electoral districts as federal deputies will be elected by majority vote. District conventions will elect candidates.

Parties will be entitled to submit, through an intraparty commission, projects for the creation of electoral districts to the electoral courts, which will be in charge of establishing such districts, in keeping with constitutional principles. Parties will also be entitled to object to the creation of any district before regional electoral courts or before the higher electoral court. The presidential bill will restrict votes to party tickets and, for this purpose two articles of the electoral code -- dealing with vote counting procedures -- were changed. On the other hand, the bill maintains the electoral code requirement that candidates who are voted for the Chamber of Deputies and for state legislatures must be members of the same party.

The bill lists the following guidelines to be taken into account for the creation of districts: approximate equivalence of the number of voters and the total number of inhabitants in each district; continuity of district areas preserving, whenever possible, geopolitical divisions and city limits; similar socioeconomic conditions; and availability of communications, roads and means of transportation within each district. Changes of districts will be allowed only after the results of each decennial census are made known. This measure is aimed at giving more stability to districts and to the relationship between voters and legislators.

According to the government-sponsored bill, one regular candidate and two substitute candidates will be elected in each district by majority vote for the Chamber of Deputies and for the state legislature. Sponsorship of one candidate in more than one district will not be allowed. One candidate will be elected for the chamber and up to five candidates for the state legislature by proportionate vote in each district. The number of deputies to be elected by proportionate vote will be the total number of deputies that will represent each state and territory minus the number of deputies elected by majority vote.

According to the preamble provided by the justice minister, this mechanism will be the most suitable one for establishing the number of state deputies to be elected under each system, because it will prevent district overlapping. If Congress approves the bill, the preamble states, the law "will contribute to the improvement of the representative system and of party life itself."

COMMITTEE INSTALLED TO STUDY SECURITY LAW

PY252113 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Mar 83 p 4

[Excerpt] The special committee to study changes in the national security law, created in answer to a request by Brazilian Labor Party Senator Nelson Carneiro who will be chairman of the committee, was installed in the Senate yesterday. Government-appointed Senator Murillo Badaro was chosen by the government leadership to write a report on this matter, a report he must submit within 90 days.

PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES CHIEF ON OFFICIAL VISIT

PY282346 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] The chief of the Portuguese Armed Forces, Gen (Nuno Viriato da Salle de Mello e Sidio) arrived today in Brazil on an official visit at the invitation of his Brazilian colleague Gen Valdir Vasconcellos. The Portuguese minister [as heard] will visit several Brazilian cities, including Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Sao Jose dos Campos, Salvador, and Foz do Iguazu, where he will take a look at the Itaipu hydroelectric project.

On Sunday 3 April, General (Mello e Sidio) will go to Brasilia where he will be received by President Figueiredo and other personalities.

PRC INTERESTED IN SUPPLYING BASIC CHEMICALS

PY252302 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 22 Mar 83 p 18

[Excerpt] The PRC wants to expand bilateral trade with Brazil -- which has a bilateral trade-balance deficit of $320 million -- and to become the main supplier of basic material for chemicals and pharmaceuticals manufactured in Brazil. The information was furnished by Qie Darien, head of the PRC trade mission which is composed of 27 executives of the largest PRC trading company, China National Chemical.

The Chinese yesterday dedicated the first Chinese fair of chemicals and pharmaceuticals -- the first Chinese industrial fair yet held in Brazil -- at the Reboucas Cultural Center in Sao Paulo. The fair is showing 800 products classified in 12 categories, which are produced by several enterprises. Qie Darien affirmed that the import restrictions on basic materials should be respected because of Brazil's trade balance difficulties, but observed that "the whole world recognizes Brazil's potential and knows that the restrictions are temporary."

FINANCE MINISTER REPORTS ON FOREIGN DEBT ISSUE

PY240307 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 23 Mar 83

[From the "Congressional Report"]

[Text] A long debate took place today in the Senate on the Brazilian economic-financial crisis, especially focusing on the foreign debt issue, on the occasion of the presence in the Senate of Finance Minister Ernane Galveas who was summoned to attend the session.

Galveas was summoned based on a proposal made by Senator Aloisio Chaves, leader of the Social Democratic Party [PDS], which had been approved at a plenary session.

Opening the session, Minister Galveas outlined the strategy adopted by the government to face the crisis which, in his opinion, stems from an adverse international situation affecting big and small, rich and poor countries alike.

After the finance minister's briefing, which lasted 1 hour, Senate President Nilo Coelho opened the question period and senators from the various parties took the floor to question the minister.

The main issues on which the minister was questioned were the government's decision to turn to the IMF, the maxidevaluation of the cruzeiro, closing the 1983 balance of payments and the increased interest rates.

The first one to question Galveas was Senator Severo Gomes, a former industry and commerce minister. Gomes said Brazil is enduring today the worst crisis in its history, a crisis which threatens to bring about serious social unrest. He also criticized the maxidevaluation because he believes that instead of encouraging exports, it will cause public and private enterprises to get more heavily indebted and will fuel inflation.

Gomes also critized the decision to turn to the IMF. He regards this decision as a passive acceptance of the IMF's interference in Brazilian domestic affairs. Then he asked why the government did not sumbit to congress the agreement with the IMF, as required by the Constitution.

In his reply, Galveas defended the maxidevaluation as a way of strengthening the export sector to benefit the balance of payments and asserted that the decision to turn to the IMF was the best option for Brazil because it represented opening more doors to reconcile the interests of international creditors and those of Brazil. He then said that by turning to the IMF the Brazilian Government acted in keeping to the IMF Charter, which was approved by the Brazilian congress when the IMP was created.

Senator Jose Lins emphasized the document delivered earlier by the finance minister to the senators and stated that it disproves a contention of the opposition and confirms that the crisis does not stem from the government's incompetence but from a worldwide crisis which caused a drop in economic growth and increased unemployment in developed countries themselves.

Lins then asked the minister about his opinion on a moratorium and the degree of effectiveness he expects from the 1983 economic plan.

Galveas answered that some countries had to declare a moratorium because they had not taken preventive measures on time. He said this step would have drastic consequences for our export and import processes and would markedly reduce the large volume of foreign resources which are essential for promoting national development.

Galveas also stated that the 1983 economic plan is based on specific data, both concerning the volume of exports and imports and obtaining resources, which altogether will guarantee a safety margin of nearly $2 billion.

Senator Roberto Saturnino, leader of the Democratic Labor Party, has said that frankly speaking he, like any other Brazilian citizen, can rightly question the information given to the Senate by Minister Ernane Galveas and by any other official, since to the errors already made one should add false reports given on several other occasions. For instance, the decision to turn to the IMF was made in the wake of persistent government denials.

Saturnino questioned the minister's assertion that nothing stands in the way of balancing the 1983 balance of payments. He expressed his belief that between $4 and $7 billion are yet to be obtained abroad.

Then Saturnino asked the finance minister what he would do if his predictions do not come true, if interest rates do not decline in the short term and it becomes necessary to obtain additional loans, and to declare a moratorium, if government-owned enterprises collapse and the threat of social unrest materializes in the country.

In his reply, Galveas told Saturnino he was fully entitled to question the government's assertions and to criticize authorities. Yet he asked Saturnino how he would react if the government's measures were correct and yielded the expected results.

Galveas noted in fact that foreign interest rates are beginning to show signs of a decline and confirmed the soundness of the data proving that there is no problem in balancing this year's balance of payments.

Galveas also denied the charge that the government's actions have been weaking state-owned enterprises which, on the contrary, are being strengthened.

Saturnino was not satisfied by Galveas' answers and referred his questions to the PDS leadership to obtain satisfactory answers.

For his part, Senator Fernando Enrique Cardoso endorsed Saturnino's contention that the picture given by Minister Galveas was not realistic and that it would be better for him to tell the truth and to ask for the Senate's understanding.

Cardoso said: It looks like we will not close our balance of payments. And even if we do it will be at the cost of recession and unemployment. Cardoso rejected the contention that the debt was well managed. Then he asked why Brazil has been paying much more than other countries for loans and in the amount paid as commissions for foreign loans to banks and individuals. Then he asked what reasons of state require that the Senate not be informed while international bankers are kept informed.

The finance minister voiced surprise at the questions asked by Senator Cardoso. He said that the measures outlined in the document delivered to the senators are designed to prevent worse evils both concerning the aggravation of recession and the rise in the level of unemployment.

Galveas stated that, according to the international financial community, the Brazilian foreign debt is excellently managed. He said he will let the PDS senators answer the alternatives proposed by the opposition which would involve breaking with the IMF, a change in the economic model and declaring a moratorium.

As for the spread, Galveas said it is higher than that paid by other countries, such as Poland, the Ivory Coast and Venezuela, because the loans made to Brazil are to be repaid in 8 years and have a 30-month grace period while loans to other countries are short-term loans.

As for commissions, Galveas said these are rates charged by the banks for reserving funds for the period in which loans are negotiated.

Senator Cardoso expressed his conviction that the loans granted to the countries mentioned by the minister are also long-term loans.

Senator Gabriel Hermes began by stating that the debate held by senators with the finance minister will have a great impact on the Brazilian public and expressed his conviction that Brazil will solve its problems.

Hermes said the minister gave the right answers to the senators and that he had to answer some questions. Then, Hermes conveyed to Galveas his concern about unemployment in the public and private sector, the difficulty in reducing interest rates and the need to give greater protection to small and medium-sized enterprises.

In his reply, Galveas admitted that workers continue to be dismissed by national enterprises but noted that unemployment was to a certain extent normal at the present juncture. He said that despite difficulties, the employment level is rising gradually and that the government is seeking to increase job opportunities by adopting several measures such as those designed to increase exports to create more jobs in the domestic market.

Galveas said the government seeks to create as many jobs as possible and to adopt measures designed to strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises.

Galveas ruled out the possibility of regulating interest rates in the short term. Yet he left open the possibility of doing so should the government measures not yield satisfactory results.

Additional Galveas Comments

PY250213 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Mar 83

[From the "Congressional Report"]

[Excerpts] Questioning Finance Minister Ernane Galveas during yesterday's session, Senator Jose Fragelli asked whether a ceiling was established for the Brazilian debt since over a 10-year period it jumped from $12 billion to nearly $90 billion.

Fragelli said the government should set limits on the foreign debt to prevent it from exceeding the country's ability to repay, a fact which in his opinion became evident when the government turned to the IMF.

Galveas replied that the government had to resort to foreign loans to cope with the international crisis and did so calmly and objectively so as not to leave the country in an economic predicament.

He added that foreign loans were earmarked for large investment projects such as Tucurui, Carajas, Itaipu, subway systems and others and for public enterprises to create more jobs and to promote wealth.

Senator Humberto Lucena, leader of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB], told Minister Galvaes that his party completely disagrees with the government's strategy and economic model and that, therefore, it refuses to share responsibility for either having caused or for managing the crisis as the government seems to be suggesting.

Lucena charged the government with not having heeded the opposition's persistent warnings and with overlooking its theories. In this regard, Lucena noted that the PMDB made a valuable contribution to solving the crisis through the document entitled: Hope and Change. Lucena gave figures to contest the minister's assertion that the spread is higher for Brazil because it has long-term loans. He proved that loans contracted by other countries are similar and even longer than those of Brazil and with much lower rates.

After criticizing the government's decision to turn to the IMF, which he views as an aggravating factor in the socioeconomic sector and which will have a heavy impact on the workers, Lucena stated that the worst Brazilian crisis stems in fact from the government's lack of credibility. He asked the minister what the government intends to do to reverse this.

In his reply, Galveas merely stated that there are different points of view and reiterated his conviction that Brazil will solve its economic problems and that pessimism was not justified.

Social Democratic Party leader Aloisio Chaves, who had proposed summoning Galveas to the Senate, praised Galveas' briefing which he described as being professional, objective and sound.

Chaves endorsed Galveas' position that Brazil should not declare a moratorium and noted that the country can negotiate on its foreign debt without having to adopt extreme measures.

Galgeas thanked Chaves for his remarks and in view of the lack of time and since the session was adjourning, he promised to answer in writing questions asked by Senators Jose Fragelli, Virgilio Tavora, Humberto Lucena, Roberto Saturnino and Aloisio Chaves.

NAVY RELEASES FUNDS FOR NEW ANTARCTIC MISSION

PY260013 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Brasilia -- Navy Minister Maximiano da Fonseca has released 1.2 billion cruzeiros for the second scientific mission to the Antarctic, which will begin in December 1983. This fund is intended, among other things, for the purchase of equipment and material which are always necessary for the "essential scientific research in the Antarctic region, with the purpose of understanding the phenomena that occur there and their influence on Brazil."

IMPORT QUOTAS FOR FEDERAL, STATE, PRIVATE COMPANIES

PY272150 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 24 Mar 83

[Text] Enterprises owned by the federal government (except Petrobras which will import $9 billion worth of oil) will be allowed $2 billion worth of imports of the $17 billion total imports for this year. Private enterprises and those owned by state governments will be allowed to import $5.5 billion.

The $17 billion import quota set within the balance-payments target -- exports' targets is $23 billion -- was explained to industrialists by the Cacex [Bank of Brazil Foreign Trade Department] director, Carlos Viacava, in a number of meetings he has been holding with various export sectors.

The industrialists who attended Viacava's lecture yesterday said that the imports' value rundown for this year is as follows:

Sector	Value
Petrobras	$9 billion
Federal Government Enterprises	$2 billion
Wheat Account	$500 million
Private and State-Government Enterprises	$5.5 billion
Total	$17 billion

Viacava explained that, with the reduction in the international price of oil, the country will save $800 million, and that this saving will allow for an increase in wheat imports of $100 million this year. Of the remaining $700 million of this saving, $200 million will be kept for an emergency, and $500 million will be allocated to the private sector for raw material purchases and for investments.

DEPUTIES HONOR KARL MARX ON ANNIVERSARY

PY272013 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Mar 83 p 4

[Text] The Social Democratic Party (PDS) leadership in the Chamber of Deputies did not interrupt Deputies Aurelio Peres [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party (PMDB) -- Sao Paulo], Roberto Freire (PMDB -- Pernambuco) or Jose Genoino Neto [Workers Party (PT) -- Sao Paulo] who, from their seats, paid homage to Karl Marx whose 100th death anniversary was celebrated on 14 March. PDS Vice Presidents Amaral Netto, Djalma Bessa and Jorge Arbage attended the session.

Deputy Roberto Freire pointed out the importance of the speeches referring to Marx made in the Chamber of Deputies taking into account that not long ago "those who spoke of Marxism were liable to be repressed." He stated that yesterday afternoon's developments are important because it means that "in the future we will not only be able to talk about Marxism, but we will also allow the Marxists to act freely and also talk about their party."

In supporting Aurelio Peres, Deputy Alcides Lima (PDS) stated that Marx "has made great contributions" to world history.

Aurelio then stated that if Marx were to rise from his grave today he would "condemn the type of regime which rules this country;" he would see "some faults in the USSR and PRC regimes and would weep for the workers who are victims of a regime which is supported by a political party" to which Alcides Lima belongs.

Deputy Jose Genoino Neto stated that "Marxism is unavoidably linked to the most noble human ideals," and Aurelio Peres pointed out that "Marx's slogan: Proletarians of all countries unite," is still fully valid.

BRIEFS

RECORD INFLATION PREDICTED -- One of Minister Delfim Netto's advisers stated in Brasilia that inflation for the month of March will reach a record of 10 percent. The accumulated inflation rate for the past 12 months will thus amount to 109.6 percent. The minister's adviser pointed out that the increase of fuel prices, the cost of living and the readjustment of salaries in the construction field in Rio de Janeiro are the causes for this record inflation rate. [Text] [Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 25 Mar 83 PY]

FORMER MINISTER MEDEIROS SILVA DIES -- Carlos Medeiros Silva, former justice minister during the Castelo Branco administration and former justice of the Supreme Court, died of heart failure on 3 March. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 4 Mar 83 p 4 PY]

HEPATITIS, LEPTOSPIROSIS OUTBREAK -- Seventy two cases of hepatitis have been recorded in the port of Paranagua, and three cases of leptospirosis were detected among inmates in the state of Parana. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Mar 83 p 8 PY]

GOVERNMENT SEEKS REFINANCING OF FOREIGN DEBT

PY282314 Paris AFP in Spanish 2040 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Santiago, 27 Mar (AFP) -- Government sources stated today in Santiago that the renegotiation of the tremendous Chilean foreign debt, which is listed as one of the three highest per capita in the world, is beginning a promising and decisive stage. The latest talks to reschedule the payments and interests of the almost $18 billion debt have been taking place in New York since last week, when the IMF decided to renew its support of President Augusto Pinochet's policies.

The military government is asking the foreign banks -- represented by a committee headed by the Manufacturers Hanover Trust -- to extend the periods agreed upon to cancel the payments scheduled for this year and next. It is also asking for an additional credit of $1.2 billion.

Chile is today facing the worst recession in half a century, with an unemployment rate higher than 20 percent, an increasing inflation and a 14 percent drop in production of goods and services, the worst in all Latin America at the moment.

According to a government report, the IMF has agreed to change some of the conditions imposed at the beginning of the year to lend almost $1 billion, half of which has already been deposited in the Chilean treasury.

The commitment to stagger the release of the remaining resources provided by the IMF and the preparation of an emergency plan to reactivate and promote exports and to prevent the drop in reserves has improved Santiago's position at the negotiating table.

The government has predicted that the plan, criticized by popular groups, will be the beginning of a slow but sure recovery, although some sectors believe that the situation will remain as precarious as it is now during the rest of the decade.

Some sources have stated that following the recent meetings with Chilean experts, the banks are willing to reschedule the old debts and to grant new loans for $1.2 billion requested by President Pinochet's government. Chile will finally receive the same treatment from the banks as given to Brazil, Mexico and other countries hit by this international recession, the sources stated. According to Chilean experts, the soon to be concluded renegotiation will greatly alleviate foreign payments at least until 1991.

PINOCHET PROMISES 'IRON HAND' FOR SUBVERSIVES

PY282115 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Graciela Contreras report from Government House]

[Excerpts] President Pinochet has promised an iron hand for those who promote disruptions of public order. President Pinochet announced this yesterday to the workers and merchants of the central market of this capital, who invited him to participate in the festivities marking the 52d anniversary of their union.

[Begin Pinochet recording] I take this opportunity to warn those who promote subversion and disrupt public order on orders from Moscow, (?hiding behind) certain respectable institutions, that I will deal them the hardest hand they can possibly imagine. [applause] [passage indistinct] [end recording]

At the end of his brief statements, the chief of state once again thanked the market merchants for inviting him and pointed out that they will soon become the owners of the premises where their stores operate. President Pinochet then stated that everyone of us is struggling for Chile, for a Chile which [words indistinct] freedom and where human rights are respected and democracy is exercised as a way of life and not as a form of political demagoguery.

SOME PERSONS STILL BEING DETAINED IN SANTIAGO

PY281904 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Relayed report from Government House by Graciela Contreras]

[Excerpt] A total of 18 of the 220 persons detained last Wednesday for their participation in the incidents in downtown Santiago are still being held. This report was released by a reliable Interior Ministry source, who was asked about the procedures carried out by this ministry regarding the detainees.

The source stated that most of the 220 detainees have been released, and that 18 persons are still being held in various police stations in Santiago at the disposal of the Interior Ministry. This ministry must make a decision today on the disposition of these detainees.

MINIATURE SUBMARINE JOINS SOVIET FISHING FLEET

PY282008 Paris AFP in Spanish 0350 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Santiago, 27 Mar (AFP) -- Based on reliable sources, the Santiago newspaper EL MERCURIO reported today that a Soviet miniature submarine capable of diving as deep as 2,000 meters has joined the communist-bloc fishing fleet now operating off the coast of Chile. The flagship of this submarine is the scientific research ship Odissey, one of the 80 or more units from Cuba, Poland and the Soviet Union detected by the Chilean Navy and Air Force during the past 6 months.

The miniature submarine is 8 meters long and is apparently operated by two crew members. It is used for the detection of schools of fish, although it is believed that these submarines are used for intelligence missions as well, the newspaper adds.

According to the report, most of these ships that travel through this area are now concentrated between parallels 34 and 47 south, between the Juan Fernandez Islands and the Gulf of Penas, especially off the port of Corral. Nevertheless, these fishing ships are working outside the 200-mile territorial limit claimed by Chile as an exclusive zone for the exploitation of fishing resources, the newspaper report states. EL MERCURIO illustrates the report by providing closeup air photographs of several foreign ships.

The newspaper adds that patrol and naval units, military planes, as well as merchant freighters navigating through that sector are used to maintain constant surveillance of the fleet.

BRIEFS

EXPORT, IMPORT FIGURES -- The Chilean Central Bank reports that exports so far this year total $527 million, while imports total only $384 million in the same period. The bank also reports that in January 1983, foreign reserves dropped by $625 million and in February by $213 million. The foreign reserves of the Central Bank currently total $1,739,000,000 after those losses. [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Mar 83 PY]

ELN RELEASES KIDNAPPED MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

PA282201 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Santa Marta, Colombia -- Fifty-seven days after being kidnapped, presumably by guerrilla commandos, in the southern part of Magdalena Department, Liberal Representative Nubia Correa de Luna was released yesterday. A million-peso ransom was paid for her release. The representative, wife of Trino Luna Moron, former Magdalena Department governor, had been kidnapped on 29 January while going to her ranch in Playitas Corregimiento, in the jurisdiction of San Martin de Loba Municipality. Since then, her relatives and other envoys had been contacting and negotiating with the kidnappers, presumably members of the Army of National Liberation, who last week agreed to release her.

'GRUPO' CONFIRMS INTENTION TO KILL CRIMINALS

PA260404 Paris AFP in Spanish 1224 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Cali, Colombia, 25 Mar (AFP) -- It has been reported here that the self-styled "Grupo" clandestine organization has confirmed its intention to end crime by use of the death penalty, which, it said, is the only "way to correct antisocials who try to make Cali their hideout."

Through a communique sent to the Bogota AFP office, the organization confirmed that "the deadline when our justice will unleash its force on transgressors of the law is 9 April." The "Grupo," similar to the Brazilian "death squads," first announced its intention to attack thieves, muggers, kidnappers and other criminals on 8 March through a profusion of communiques issued in the provincial city of Cali in western Colombia.

BOLIVIA'S SILES VISITS EN ROUTE TO MADRID

PA271355 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0550 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Bogota, 27 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo said he is satisfied with the institutionalization and consolidation of democracy in his country which, he said, will permit boosting the country's socioeconomic development. Siles Zuazo, who passed through Bogota last night en route to Madrid, spoke briefly with the CARACOL network. He reiterated his government's commitment to giving all necessary support to the reactivation of the Andean Pact. "Bolivian democracy has been strengthened, consolidated, and institutionalized. In the midst of the crisis, there is a national and general consensus favoring unity through democracy in order to promote sustained social and economic development," the president said.

MEXICAN EMBASSY OCCUPIED, DEMANDS STATED

PA282116 Paris AFP in Spanish 2124 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Caracas, 28 Mar (AFP) -- The Mexican Embassy in Venezuela was occupied early this afternoon by four women and three men of the Venezuelan Committee of Solidarity with Revolutionary Political Prisoners, according to a telephone call to AFP in Caracas by Pilar Diaz (one of the occupiers). This is the third occupation by the committee in less than a week in Venezuela. The first was the Swedish Embassy in Caracas and on Thursday the Spanish Consulate in Valencia (170 km from Caracas).

These operations were conducted by the Committee to make a spectular denunciation of prison conditions and the legal status of more than 300 political prisoners in Venezuela. The committee has denounced a state of "illegal repression," citing the example of Gabriel Puerta Aponte, one of the Venezuelan guerrilla leaders of the 1960's. He was arrested 2 years ago and has not been tried yet.

Several hours after the occupation, it was still not possible to reestablish communications with Mexican Ambassador Jesus Puente Leyva or members of the committee. Committee member Pilar Diaz, who called AFP to report the occupation, promised "to continue on a war footing until repression ceases." This means that the committee might carry more occupations in the next few days, according to observers.

The main demands presented by the committee are: Permission for relatives to visit political prisoners, an end to physical searches, and especially, the speeding up of trials. Several sources have said that the number of political prisoners in Venezuela held on charges of belonging to guerrilla movements -- which supposedly ended in the country after the 1969 amnesty law -- is about 30.

More Occupations Hinted

PA282127 Paris AFP in Spanish 2052 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Caracas, 28 Mar (AFP) -- Some four or five embassies could be peacefully occupied during holy week in Caracas, a former guerrilla told AFP today. The former guerrilla is a member of the Committee of Solidarity with Revolutionary Political Prisoners [Comite de Solidaridao de los Presos Politicos Revolucionarios], which has been occupying the Mexican Embassy in Caracas since noon.

Mexican Ambassador Jesus Puente Leyva is currently in Mexico and the embassy is under Charge d'Affaires Hector Mendoza, who confirmed that it is being peacefully occupied by seven people. The Mexican Embassy is located on the 11th floor of a building in the Altamira neighborhood of eastern Caracas. Six officials (five women and one man) were in the offices at the time of the occupation.

The police have not gone to that floor, but the areas around the building's first floor are being guarded by large numbers of policemen, it was reported to AFP. The Solidarity Committee last week occupied the Swedish Embassy in Caracas and the Spanish Consulate in Valencia (Venezuela's third largest city, 170 km from here) to request better prison conditions and the speeding up of the trials.

FOREIGN SECRETARY DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH U.S.

PA282038 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda said on television that President Reagan's view that Central America is the fourth U.S. border has geopolitical implications and does not contribute to harmonious coexistence in the region. After reiterating that Mexico's foreign policy is based on immutable principles, Sepulveda stressed that this country demands from the United States ties based on friendship, reciprocal respect, justice, equity and dignity.

Sepulveda pointed out that the solutions of Mexican problems are generated within the Mexican nation, without foreign interference, because he said, we are a mature people with institutional solidity and confidence in the domestic procedures. The Mexican foreign secretary stressed that his country insists that the Central American conflicts must be solved exclusively by means of political dialogue. He also stressed that the problems in this area are not due to the East-West confrontation, but are the result of economic backwardness and social injustice.

NICARAGUAN ENVOY ON THREAT TO PEACE IN C.A.

FL241324 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0122 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Nicaraguan Ambassador Mauricio Cuadra warned today that the support Honduras gives to the 1,200 former Somozist guardsmen who entered Nicaragua is placing the two countries in a state of imminent danger of war. The diplomat noted that the Suazo Cordova government is lending itself to the U.S. game of provoking an international armed conflict to justify a direct intervention in the area. At a news conference, the ambassador said Vietnam would be nothing compared to a general war in Central America. However, Cuadra stressed that his country will not fall for the Honduran provocation and will not enter its neighbor's territory.

Asked about the Sandinist position regarding Honduran support for attacks by former Somozists against Nicaraguan towns, the diplomat explained: When our patience wears out, we will look for more patience. He was thus citing Carlos Fonseca Amador, the founder of Sandinism. What used to be counterrevolutionary bands harassing our borders have now become a regular army with heavy weapons and Honduran logistic support and military training, he said. After noting that the Honduran army attacked Nicaraguan territory with mortars, the ambassador stressed that former Sandinist commander Eden Pastora is closely tied to former guardsmen who are trying to invade Nicaragua. He said Nicaragua will respond to attacks inside its territory but will never violate the sovereignty of the Honduran people.

Cuadra denied there are problems on the border with Costa Rica, but noted that Costa Rica is interested in creating them. He said that tonight the U.S. Government will try to prove that there are nuclear weapons in Central America. Regarding this, he said Reagan will probably find atomic bombs and other war materiel just to discredit Nicaragua. He recalled that Reagan has previously made statements that are so false that the effect has been opposite to that expected. He noted that the speech by Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda at the commemoration of the birth of Benito Juarez confirms the rectitude of the Mexican foreign policy. Mexico maintains its dignified and friendly attitude toward the Central American countries, he concluded.

NICARAGUA'S ENERGY MINISTER ON OLADE MEETING

FL282357 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2329 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 27 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Nicaragua's Energy Minister Emilio Rappaccioli affirmed here today that U.S. pressure on Mexico to reduce the price of oil is continuing. He said if the price goes down, it will affect the San Jose Treaty.

Minister Rappaccioli made the statement prior to departure for Managua after attending the Eighth OLADE Ministers Meeting in Queretaro, some 211 kms from the capital. He said the OLADE meeting was successful because of the agreements adopted, including the development of alternate sources of energy, exploratory work for hydrocarbons in Nicaragua and for carbon in Colombia.

Finally he noted that the participants agreed on the need to avoid the further decrease in the price of oil, because a drop of $4, such as the one adopted by OPEC, will not harm anyone, but something greater would only benefit the developed superpowers, which import and trade with crude.

COSTA RICA CALLS URGENT L.A. MINISTERS SUMMIT

FL251935 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1836 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Marcelo Prieto, Costa Rican ambassador to Mexico, has announced that his country's Foreign Ministry intends to hold an urgent meeting of 12 Latin American foreign ministers to work out a formula for peace in Central America. The diplomat said the date for the meeting of foreign ministers has not yet been determined since the invitations are still being made.

Marcelo Prieto explained that the foreign ministers of Belize, Jamaica, Panama, Venezuela, Dominican Republic and Colombia will be invited to the summit as observers because they are countries that have favored peace through dialogue and political [negotiation] in all international forums. The Costa Rican ambassador said he believed the situation in Central America had been aggravated by recent developments in Nicaragua, whose deputy foreign minister last Wednesday reiterated his accuastions before the UN Security Council that exile groups had infiltrated [Nicaragua] to facilitate a possible Honduran Army intervention. He said that the Luis Alberto Monge administration maintains the line that all foreign advisors, whatever their affiliations, ought to withdraw from the region in order to avoid more serious confrontations.

FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE ON NICARAGUA

PA260309 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Communique issued by the Panamanian Foreign Ministry in Panama City on 25 March 1983 -- read by announcer]

[Text] In view of the convulsive actions taking place on the Central American isthmus, the Government of the Republic of Panama reiterates its official commitment to maintaining a dynamic and persevering attitude that will permit us to assist in the unavoidable task of promoting dialogue and neogtiations as an effective means of adequately dealing with the problems that confront and compromise peace and that threaten the peoples' democracy in Central America as well as in the international community.

Due to the recent acts of war affecting Nicaragua, the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Panama recalls the reiterated calls for peace issued by the Mexican, Venezuelan, Colombian and Panamanian foreign ministers at the Contadora meeting.

Within the framework of the common position adopted by those four nations in January 1983, the Panamanian Foreign Ministry urges all nations in the hemisphere, especially those affected by the conflict, to reduce tension and to establish the necessary foundations for strengthening a permanent atmosphere of peaceful coexistence and respect among states. At the same time, it reiterates its adherence to the principles of nonintervention and the self-determination of peoples.

The Panamanian Foreign Ministry also stresses the obligation of all states to avoid resorting to threats or to the use of force in their relations, and emphasizes the need to support the universal democratic principles and to permit the efforts to secure dialogue and understanding to prevail over emotions, which can lead only to criticism and general censure, which do not aid in finding immediate solutions to the current conflict.

Based on these guidelines for Panamanian foreign policy, the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Panama has instructed its diplomatic representations abroad to ensure that their actions reflect our policy and to avoid confusion or doubts that could distort the principles of our international policy.

GENERAL PAREDES LEAVES FOR MIAMI 'VACATION'

PA282319 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Excerpt] General Ruben Dario Paredes, chief of the Panamanian National Guard, left this morning for a vacation in Miami, taking advantage of the holy week holidays. He was accompanied by his wife, Elvira de Paredes, and Colonel Eloy Fisher, G-1 of the National Guard General Staff. Members of the General Staff headed by Colonel Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of General Staff, Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, deputy chief and G-2 of the General Staff, other officers, chiefs and government officials were on hand at the airport to bid him farewell.

EL SALVADOR

GARCIA, CONGRESSMEN DISCUSS RIGHTS CASES

PA282300 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Raul Beltran Bonilla report on remarks by Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia and U.S. Congressmen James Obestar, William Richardson, James Jeffords, Bill Wordward and William Publiano; at the Defense Ministry at "around noon" 28 March before a closed-door meeting; congressmen's questions in English with subsequent translation; Garcia's answers in Spanish with subsequent translation -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Garcia; in progress] You say that you feel offended at the way person x was arrested. I still don't know who this person might be. It is easy to feel offended when you are perhaps not aware of the truth. I would not dare to judge an event which I consider is within the law -- I say this is my viewpoint, even though I am not aware of how this was carried out. Nonetheless, please rest assured that we are trying to do everything within the law. But it is difficult to accept having someone come and tell us he feels offended at the way we act. We might be acting wrong, but that is another matter. We might be doing the incorrect thing, but that is another matter. But to say you feel offended -- I consider that this should not be your attitude, if you want to understand better what is going on and if...

[Interrupted by unidentified congressman] but the form determines the substance.

[Garcia] Yes, that is true. But everything is directly related to its causes. If a person is arrested, I consider that there must be a reason. However, I would like to tell you that I am not acquainted with the specific case you mentioned. We were talking about it a few moments ago. I believe it is two newsmen who have been arrested.

We were talking about it a few moments ago. I believe it is two newsmen who have been arrested.

[Unidentified congressman] But they said that Colonel Moran is a very cooperative person.

[Garcia] I am not acquainted with the case; I have not reviewed it. I received the report this morning. However, please rest assured that we will act according to the law. That is what we demand and that is what we want. When we speak about justice, we speak about justice for all, without exception.

[Unidentified congressman] Thank you for your assurances, and I want to express appreciation for Colonel Moran's prompt response [words indistinct] interview with you.

[Unidentified congressman] Jim, I would like to make one more statement. General, we have also been looking into other human rights cases that have cropped up in the last two years; the four U.S. nuns, the case of the two AFL labor representatives, Mr. Sullivan's case, Mr. (Weinster's) case. We hope that the judicial process acts expeditiously in these cases because, in the judgement -- my own and in the U.S. Congress -- there has been footdragging, there has been a number of problems. And we ask you please -- as head of the Defense Ministry -- not only to (?heed) the human rights commission but to enforce the resolve if those judged are guilty.

[Garcia] I believe we have been the most interested in clarifying this and other cases. Proof of this is that, despite opposition, we have presented a report on these cases before justice and the law, where they correspond. We believe that our law itself has not allowed us to carry out these cases with the quickness we also want. Even though this is not our field, I would like to tell you we are following the developments quite closely, because we too are interested that justice prevail, whoever might be involved -- not because we have other interests but because we respect our country and the U.S. people, as fellow citizens of these four nuns. Mainly, we want justice to really prevail in El Salvador, blindfolded, and there prevails in our country the respect that we owe each other as human beings. I repeat, even though that is not our field, I am closely following the development of this case and others. We hope that truth will soon be found and the sun of legality -- based on justice -- shine again.

RADIO VENCEREMOS REPORTS ON FMLN ACTIVITIES

Communist Party Anniversary

PA282023 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] We greet the Communist Party of El Salvador, member of FMLN, on its 53d anniversary. Upon its completion of 53 years of historic struggle, we greet its political-military structures and all its members. Alongside the Salvadoran progressive democratic forces, they advance toward the achievement of justice and freedom.

Village in Morazan Captured

PA282033 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] A report received from the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front indicates that at 0515 on Saturday 26 March FMLN forces began attacking enemy forces in the village of El Divisadero, in the southern part of Morazan Department. This village, is located on the military route between Jocoro and the turnoff to San Francisco Gotera.

The clash lasted 2 hours, at the end of which our forces stormed all the positions held by the enemy, including the local command post, where they had taken refuge and had offered great resistance. In this manner, our forces gained complete control of El Divisadero.

The results of this operation were: The FMLN recovered from the puppet army 24 G-3 rifles, 1 M-1 carbines, 75 G-3 ammunition clips and 8,800 rounds of 7.62-mm ammunition. We took 13 prisoners of war and killed 2 soldiers, including the commander of the dictatorship's forces.

This operation was commanded by Companero (Ramon Arce). For our part, we regret the heroic fall of companero (Matias), a squad chief. The operation was named after Companero (Amilcar), who fell in the Arambla clash on 18 June 1982. United to fight until the final victory. Revolution or death, we will win! This report was sent in by Commander (Chano Guevara).

Report of Achievements

PA282120 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] A people winning a war does not ask forgiveness. In the first 3 months of 1983, our militia and revolutionary army have seized over 900 rifles and 35 support weapons from the dictatorship, have captured approximately 450 prisoners of war, and have inflicted more than 1,000 casualties on the puppet army.

San Esteban Catarina Occupied

PA290410 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Attention, much attention. Radio Venceremos is just now receiving reports on another victory achieved by the FMLN. The report comes from the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front in the San Vicente Department. Here are preliminary reports:

FMLN detachments, supported by militia units, entered San Esteban Catarina, San Vicente Department, on Sunday, 27 March at 1730. As a result, they engaged in heavy clashes with national guard units, soldiers and paramilitary groups guartered in this area. Clashes lasted until 0230 today, 28 March, with the following preliminary results: Much attention, here are the preliminary reports:

We recovered 14 rifles, killed 1 enemy and wounded 1, and captured 14 prisoners of war. Additionally, we recovered a large amount of ammunition and medicine from the enemy. The action was carried out under the leadership of Commander (Miguel Mendoza) and Chiefs (Ernesto Flores) and (Alexander).

San Esteban Catarina is only 57 km from San Salvador, and only 5 km from San Vicente, headquarters of the 5th Infantry Brigade. The town has a population of 12,000 inhabitants.

It was also reported that reinforcements sent from San Vicente and Cojutepeque were stopped by FMLN forces posted in strategic positions where government troops had to pass by. The dictatorship's army continues delivering weapons. The dictatorship's army continues surrendering before FMLN military forces. This is how our people continue to advance step by step toward the final liberation.

GUATEMALA

MEXICAN BORDER CLOSED 'TO PREVENT CONTRABAND'

PA282330 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2241 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Guatemalan authorities have closed the western border with Mexico, trying "to prevent increasing flow of contraband." Col David Gordon, director general of the Treasury Police, made the announcement today. According to Colonel Gordon, members of the Treasury Police have been deployed in the departments of San Marcos and Huehuetenango bordering southern Mexico.

Gordon says that contraband from Mexico increases during Eastern Week, and several Mexican citizens have already been arrested. The most common contraband articles are food, clothing, plastics, liquors and beer.

According to Gordon, controls have been extended to the Honduran and Salvadoran borders also. There is contraband of basic grains from Honduras. Meanwhile, from El Salvador we get clothing, alcohol and foreign products which are brought to the country as if they were manufactured in Central America, according to Gordon.

HONDURAS

NICARAGUA ACCUSED OF SENDING MEN TO EL SALVADOR

PA290215 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0045 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 27 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Government today accused the Nicaraguan Government of violating its territory by sending troops in small groups to El Salvador to reinforce and supply the Salvadoran guerrillas.

A communique of the international information office of the Presidential Office Secretariat indicated that the Honduran police intercepted an uniformed and armed Sandinist patrol just 4 km from the city of Nacaome, Valle Department.

The bulletin added that the Sandinists were in an area called Las Cuevitas and that one of the invaders died and the rest escaped encirclement and moved off toward El Salvador.

It also indicated that the group was intercepted on 26 March at 1630 (2230 GMT) and that small groups with supplies for El Salvador from Nicaragua regularly pass through Honduras at intervals of 48 to 72 hours.

The report indicated that the guerrillas were carrying a map with an arrow pointing from Chinandega, Nicaragua, to northern Central America, and that the map had the acronyms FSLN of Nicaragua and FMLN of El Salvador.

The international information office promised more information later. It did not clarify whether the clash is the same one reported today by the press in southern Honduras which only spoke about an FMLN cell disbanded by the Honduran police.

PAZ BARNICA PROTESTS BOAT SEIZURES TO NICARAGUA

PA252111 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 2041 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Communique addressed by Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica to Nicaraguan Acting Foreign Minister Nora Astorga, issued in Tegucigalpa on 25 March 1983 -- read by announcer at the Honduran government house]

[Text] Your Excellency acting Foreign Minister Nora Astorga, Managua, Nicaragua: Mrs Minister, I have the honor to address Your Excellency to inform you that on Sunday, 20 March, a Sandinist Peoples Army patrol seized two fishing boats in Honduran territorial waters, near Punta Condega, and took them to Nicaragua, along with their crew, (Julio Jimenez), (Marco Arriola Sanchez), (Pedro Antonio Sandoval) and (Andres Cruz. Their whereabouts have not since been reported.

My government strongly protests this new act of provocation by the Nicaraguan authorities and requests the valuable services of Your Excellency in securing the return of the kidnapped people and of the illegally seized boats. This kind of hostile action, under the current circumstances, appears to be an effort to provoke a violent reaction from the Honduran Government, in order to involve it in Nicaragua's internal conflict.

We once again express our firm commitment to Your Excellency to continue to maintain the strictest neutrality in that conflict and to limit ourselves to the defense of our national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

I take advantage of this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency my highest and most distinguished esteem. [Signed] Edgardo Paz Barnica, foreign affairs secretary. [Dated] Tegucigalpa, 25 March 1983.

PAZ BARNICA TO LEAVE FOR U.S.; DENIES CHARGES

PA261638 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1550 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 26 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Honduran Foreign Seeretary Edgardo Paz Barnica today said the Honduran Army is not fighting and has not fought the Nicaraguan Army at any border point, much less in Nicaraguan territory.

The Honduran foreign secretary said this shortly before leaving for New York and Washington where he will address the UN Security Council and the OAS Permanent Council next week. Paz Barnica said his mission is to denounce the war threats launched by Nicaraguan Army leader Humberto Ortega and to clear up several Nicaraguan charges that portray Honduras as an interventionist and aggressor country. "Nicaragua has mounted a spectacular publicity and misinformation campaign regarding Honduras," Paz Barnica said, "in addition to preparing for war while the Hondurans are talking of dialogue and peaceful solutions."

The Honduran foreign secretary said it is necessary that international organizations become deeply aware of the peaceful intentions and neutral stance of the Honduran Government, army and people. He noted that he would try to make these positions more clear.

The Honduran foreign secretary said that an anti-Sandinist rebellion has been unleashed in Nicaragua, "but that does not involve the Hondurans, because we believe in the self-determination of peoples and in nonintervention. We have been accused of supporting the counterrevolution, while we have been working for peace in all the Central American isthmus," he noted.

The Honduran foreign secretary added that "we are tired of saying but will continue to reiterate that we are not going to attack Nicaragua or any other neighboring country." Paz Barnica is travelling accompanied by his advisers Jose Ramon Hernandez Alcerro and Policarpo Callejas. He will be joined in the United States by Enrique Ortez Colindres, Honduran ambassador to the United Nations.

UN ENVOY STRESSES NEED FOR REGIONAL TALKS

PA260014 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Honduras took the diplomatic initiative at the UN Security Council last night by asking this organization to help in making a dialogue for peace in Central America possible, for though there has been much talk on the subject, nothing has been done. Thus, Honduran Ambassador Enrique Ortez Colindres has asked the UN Security Council to decide on specific actions to promote peace, after 2 days of debates on the Nicaraguan charges of alleged foreign attacks.

Ortez Colindres stressed that Honduras has said that in complying with our regional agreements we cannot ignore the inter-American system, OAS, which has been kept informed on all incidents.

We have said, first, that our territory will not be used as a springboard for the invasion of a sister country, as has been indicated. Second, we have reiterated our peaceful position and maintained that any movement of our armed forces within our national territory is intended solely to permit the defense of Honduran territorial integrity and sovereignty, and is in no way an indicator of any planned attack.

Ortez Colindres asked the UN Security Council to use its moral force to help ensure the observance of the UN Charter, insofar as the maintenance of peace and harmony in the international community is concerned.

NICARAGUA

FRENCH GROUP DEMONSTRATES AT U.S. EMBASSY

PA290150 [Editorial Report] -- Managua Domestic Service in Spanish at 0034 GMT on 29 March carries what it calls live coverage from the "Marco Antonio Somarriba mobile unit, in front of the U.S. Embassy, where French internationalist companeros have gathered to protest the death of Dr Pierre Grosjean."

An unidentified foreign speaker reads an open letter to the U.S. ambassador denouncing the "indiscriminate, cowardly attack" by former Somozist national guardsmen, naming the Reagan administration as "responsible" for the attack. The Somozists, the letter says, have no "social base" in Nicaragua, and the U.S. is called on to immediately end its "support of these massacres and immediately cease all U.S. meddling in Nicaragua's domestic affairs."

The reading of the letter is interrupted by demonstrators shouting "There they are; they are (?paying) for the invasion," and "In Sandino's country we don't want murderers."

The first letter is followed by the reading of a second, by a second foreigner, from West European, Canadian and U.S. technicians. The coverage ends at 0050 GMT.

DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENTS ON AGGRESSION, DEFENSES

PA281542 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] We do not depend on a small and mercenary army like reactionary governments do. In Nicaragua, the people are the army. This statement has been made by Defense Minister Humberto Ortega Saavedra, commander of the revolution.

Humberto Ortega, commander in chief of the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, and national chief of the Sandinist People's Militia [MPS], said that in view of the increased implementation of aggressive U.S. plans through the most reactionary sectors of the Honduran Army and Government and the former Somozist guards, Nicaragua must continue strengthening the permanent mechanisms of the national defense plans.

This morning we have Commander Humberto Ortega speaking about the progress made in breaking up the counterrevolutionary military aggression in the country's northern region.

[Begin Ortega recording] What is happening, objectively speaking, is that the force that entered [Nicaragua] has gone on the defensive; it is being chased. According to the plans of imperialism, this force was expected to have the capability to evade the annihilation process this force is facing.

Imperialism and the reactionary military commands of imperialism who direct the Somozist guard must be already analyzing the fact that this force that entered with the objective of becoming ("a regular army), underestimating our people's fighting capability, has failed to implement their plans, that they are on the defensive, being chased and on the verge of being annihilated. They have to [words indistinct] so that these forces may survive and evade the process of destruction and annihilation to which we are leading them little by little.

We as military men have to foresee the adopting of measures [words indistinct] to try to create an attack, believing that our attention on that force will be diverted. They will not achieve this. Our forces will not be distracted. This is not a mercenary and small army like those that defend reactionary governments. Here the army is the people. As I have said, they cannot distract our forces because our army is the people. This is where their mistake lies. This is where death lies for those who entered.

At the same time that we clash with these tools of imperialism, we must also continue strengthening the permanent mechanisms of our national defense plans. [end recording]

RADIO PRESENTS PRISONERS CAPTURED IN FIGHTING

PA271833 [Editorial Report] -- Managua Domestic Service in Spanish at 1630 GMT on 27 March airs a 70-minute live news conference from the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry in Managua. Prior to the beginning of the actual news conference, the announcer reads a Foreign Ministry communique regarding the 26 March attack on Rancho Grande during which a French doctor was killed along with four Sandinist soldiers. The communique charges that the "unconditional support" which the United States gives to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries is responsible for the current situation. It also charges that the Rancho Grande attackers are supported by the Honduran Army.

Following the reading of the communique, Commander Lenin Cerna, chief of state security, gives a report on the capture of two counterrevolutionaries, one of whom is described as a Guatemalan mercenary linked to the Honduran intelligence services. Lenin Cerna invites the reporters to go to some of the areas where the conflict is underway.

Before presenting the prisoners, Cerna displays some of the captured weapons. Among them, he says, is a paralyzing grenade which the United States allegedly used in Vietnam and which is not in the arsenal of any Central American army. Lenin Cerna then presents the background of the two prisoners.

The two prisoners, (Jose Gregorio Najera Andrade) and (Freddy Antonio Sandino Bidaure), are then presented to the press. The first prisoner recounts his involvement with Honduran security. He says that he was arrested around 10 February. Furthermore, he accuses the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, of being a puppet of the CIA and the Pentagon.

The second prisoner interviewed is (Sandino Bidaure), a Nicaraguan by birth. He says he was captured on 19 February. He says that Argentines and U.S. citizens are among the counterrevolutionaries. In response to a question, he says that he does not know the location of the clandestine Radio 15 September.

FOREIGN MINISTRY TO PROTEST NEW HONDURAN ACTION

PA252114 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Communique issued by the office of the public relations director at the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry in Managua on 24 March 1983 -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry reports that at 1000 on 24 March an undetermined number of Honduran troops entered Nicaraguan territory in the area known as Las Parayas Valley, 3 km northwest of El Espino border post, Madriz Department. Sandinist forces in the area stopped the invading force but not before it staged an attack and wounded a member of our forces. There is no report on whether the invaders took any casualties.

The Nicaraguan Government publicly denounces, to nationals and foreigners alike, this new and dangerous act of aggression against our national sovereignty by members of the Honduran Armed Forces. It is necessary to point out that this kind of action is being dangerously repeated with increasing frequency at a time when Somozist counterrevolutionary forces have infiltrated Nicaragua from Honduran territory, and when those counterrevolutionaries are receiving logistical support from the same army that violated our sovereignty today.

This action is in line with the implementation of the U.S. Government's plan to destroy the Sandinist revolution. The next phase could be the provocation of serious incidents between Honduras and Nicaragua so as to create the excuse for a more open imperialist intervention in the Central American region, as Defense Minister Humberto Ortega Saavedra, commander of the revolution, recently revealed.

Nicaragua, aware of this threat and of the danger that it represents for all of our people, requested an urgent UN Security Council meeting to report the militarist and interventionist plans being promoted by the United States and to point out the need to double all efforts to prevent a fratricidal conflict between our people. The Foreign Ministry is preparing a new protest note, to be presented to the Honduran Government.

BORGE ON 26 MAR ATTACK; ORTEGA ON AGGRESSION

PA271753 Paris AFP in Spanish 1621 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Managua, 27 Mar (AFP) -- French Physician Pierre Grosjean and four members of the Nicaraguan Army and Interior Ministry were killed during an attack by a group of anti-Sandinists in Rancho Grande near Waslala in Zelaya department along the Honduran border, Interior Minister Tomas Borge has announced. The minister reported that the attack took place yesterday morning, Saturday, and that in addition to the 5 dead, 17 peasants, including children, were wounded.

Borge gave no further details on the death of the French doctor. He limited himself to saying that it occurred during a counterrevolutionary attack. Borge said that "it fills us with grief."

Borge said, "we have expressed our solidarity with all the internationalist doctors from various parts of the world who are in Nicaragua, with all the internationalists who are giving us their assistance, especially the Europeans and in this case, the French." Grosjean, a specialist in parasitology, arrived in Nicaragua last August, thanks to an agreement between the local university and the French Government. He was doing research on mountain leprosy, according to press reports.

Some 45 French professionals who are currently working in various areas, issued a communique stating that the objective of the counterrevolutionary groups' military action is reportedly to obtain international recognition, basing themselves on eventual "liberated zones."

"Nicaragua," the French professionals said, "is a country under attack today by the Reagan administration. In conclusion they reiterated their decision to continue their work in Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Humberto Ortega denounced preparations for a "new phase of the armed escalation against the Sandinist revolution." Ortega considered the possibility of new attacks along the Honduran border in the departments of Neuva Segovia and Zelaya Norte to distract the Sandinist Peoples Army [EPS], which is fighting in the central region of Matagalpa.

Ortega made these remarks during an event in honor of PDRY Defense Minister Brig Gen Salih Muslih Qasim, who is on an official visit to Nicaragua. Ortega said that the Nicaraguan Government has information regarding Honduran Army movements along the border with Nicaragua and that there is talk particularly of military actions in Choluteca which "might be part of an imperialist ploy to distract the attention of the EPS which is now pursuing the invading forces."

Ortega also affirmed that the former Somozist guardsmen are grouping in Honduran territory near Jalapa and Teotecacinte, Nueva Segovia Department, very close to the border. He said that another force is organizing in the Honduran Mosquitia on the Atlantic coast "with the support of that country's army."

The defense minister estimated that the invading force of some 11,200 men who had intended to entrench themselves in Nicaraguan mountains are "fundamentally neutralized." Some of these forces, he added, "no longer exist; others returned to Honduras, while others are partially disbanded in the mountains."

In conclusion, he indicated that "the military commands of imperialism must be assessing the situation and trying to find out what to do so that their men can evade the process of encirclement and annihilation" which the government's troops are carrying out.

BORGE COMMENTS ON COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY ACTIONS

PA290205 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Interview by Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge with "Cuban reporters;" place not given; on 27 March 83 -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Borge] Nothing of what is happening in Central America could be explained without the presence of imperialism, without the existence of imperialism. The revolutions in Central America and the world have a great anti-imperialist meaning and they occur precisely because imperialism exists. But also, imperialism does not resign itself to the loss of its dominion in the world, and much less in Latin America, much much less in Central America. And since it will not resign itself to the loss of this dominion, it tries to stop the new revolutions in Central America and tries to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution as it tried to destroy the Cuban revolution and destroy the great revolutionary effort made by tiny Grenada.

Imperialism is trying to create the image of two civil wars being waged in Central America, to later suggest all-encompassing negotiation using Nicaragua as the other face of the coin in the Central American situation. Since they are so mechanical and so arrogant, they believe they can solve the problem in this manner. Imperialism, not aware of the laws of history -- they stick everything into a computer -- believes that if we don't send weapons to the Salvadorans the Salvadoran revolution will end. In order that we will not send weapons to the Salvadorans, according to them, they have created this imitation civil war in Nicaragua. This artificial civil war -- it is no civil war, but an imported invasion of elements belonging to the national guard and mercenaries hired by the CIA. Therefore, in Nicaragua there is no civil war but an aggression from Honduran territory, where former national guards, foreign mercenaries and Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries have been organized, financed, armed and trained by the CIA to enter our country. At the same time they are repeating an old story, one the Cubans know by heart since they experienced this in Escambray. It is also known in Angola, Mozambique and other countries of the world.

[Question] Commander, a question on the present situation of the former Somoza guards who have entered Nicaraguan territory. Could you give us a brief account regarding this, since the transnational agencies are reporting on fighting very near Managua and so forth?

[Answer] Near Managua? Well, relatively close, but far when seen from within Nicaraguan geography. The departments of Matagalpa and Jinotega, the Departments of Matagalpa and [word indistinct] in the northern area of the country are far from Managua when viewed from our geography. If you were to take this distance in Brazil, then probably it would be near the capital city, some 100 km or something like this.

But in Nicaragua this is far away. It goes all the way to the border. However, the information media, especially the U.S. and European media as well as other countries, have said on several occasions that the counterrevolutionaries have occupied some towns. They have mentioned the towns of San Dionisio, Matiguas, (Mui Mui), and in some places they have even said that the city of Matagalpa has been occupied. All this is obviously false.

The counterrevolutionary groups that have been able to enter the country using airplanes or other means made an initial attack. They attacked a Sandinist youth company, a battalion, and killed 17 companeros. Later, our Sandinist Peoples Army and the Interior Ministry forces managed to place them in a defensive situation from the tactical as well as strategic viewpoint.

The same occurred in the areas of Quilali, Wiwili and areas bordering Honduras, where they have also been held down to a passive position. However, I do have to say, and in this I want to be very honest, that we have not been able to liquidate their forces, even though important blows have been made. The tactical actions that have been carried out in Matagalpa, Jinotega and in the northern areas have been favorable for the Sandinist Peoples Army, but there are still task forces, as they call them, that even though they are pretty disorganized and in some areas have been dispersed and neutralized, are still in our national territory. Therefore, a greater, more systematic and better organized effort is needed on the part of revolutionary state to face this situation and finish off the counterrevolutionary bands, and this we have not been able to do yet.

UN AMBASSADOR ACCEPTS COLOMBIAN MEDIATION OFFER

PA251616 Paris AFP in Spanish 1541 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Bogota, 25 Mar (AFP) -- Javier Chamorro, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations, today told the privately-owned CARACOL Radio Network that the Nicaraguan Government has accepted Colombia's "good-offices" mediation to overcome its conflict with Honduras.

According to the diplomat, "the Sandinist Government Junta receives with satisfaction Colombia's good offices to prevent the Nicaraguan and Honduran armies from engaging in an armed confrontation to settle their differences."

Chamorro's statement has been interpreted in Bogota as a response to the offer made by Carlos Alban, the new Colombian ambassador to the United Nations, who proposed a mediation to consolidate peace in Central America. Alban said that Colombia offers its good offices to find a peaceful solution to the Nicaraguan-Honduran conflict.

Alban made this proposal after Managua warned that it would use its weapons against Honduras if the Tegucigalpa government continues to facilitate the Somozists' entrance into Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda said today that he would like to meet with his counterparts from Venezuela, Mexico and Panama to make certain recommendations that might help overcome the Nicaraguan-Honduran conflict. "A war between Nicaragua and Honduras would endanger Central America's stability," Lloreda warned.

TINOCO SAYS OBJECTIVES 'ACHIEVED' AT UN

PA290405 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco has said at the United Nations that the conflict in the Honduran-Nicaraguan border might become internationalized.

In a statement to AGENCIA NUEVA NICARAGUA, Tinoco said that the United States justifies with imperial logic its role of interventionist by arguing that Nicaragua is not a democratic country.

Tinoco pointed out that the United States has remained silent concerning the accusations that it is the main support of counterrevolutionary forces that attack Nicaragua from Honduran soil.

[Begin recording] The conflict that prevails in the border area between Nicaragua and Honduras is still oriented toward the possibility of internationalizing the conflict, which might be part -- as we said last Wednesday -- of an overall plan intended to oust the revolutionary Government of Nicaragua. [end recording]

The UN Security Council has held meetings to study the charges presented by Nicaragua, and so far 17 countries have expressed their support for Nicaragua.

AGENCIA NUEVA NICARAGUA says that the Nicaraguan delegation seeks to attract the world's attention with these charges, concerning the danger that U.S. irresponsibility and intervention is provoking in the area.

Tinoco said that even though the security council's meetings have not ended, the Nicaraguan objective has already been successfully achieved.

BORGE TO LECTURE AT HARVARD, JOHNS HOPKINS

PA290211 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0126 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Managua, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicaraguan Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge will go to the United States in mid-April to lecture at Harvard and Johns Hopkins universities.

Reliable sources said that the regents of these universities invited Commander Borge, to create a "useful opportunity for a constructive exchange of viewpoints," especially now that Central America is affected by a dramatic crisis.

Borge will go to the United States accompanied by Roberto Arguello Hurtado, president of the Supreme Court of Justice; Luis Enrique Figueroa, president of the Central Bank; Commander Lenin Cerna, director of the state security organs; and Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Tinoco, who is now in New York.

NONALIGNED SUMMIT DELEGATION RETURNS VIA MOSCOW

For Soviet reportage on the visit to Moscow by Daniel Ortega, member of the National Leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, coordinator of the ruling Junta of the National Reconstruction Government, see the Latin America section of the 28 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

PDRY DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PA261756 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Brig Gen Salih Muslih Qasim, defense minister of the People's Republic of Yemen [PDRY], arrived yesterday at Sandino Airport. He was met by Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega Saavedra, Nicaraguan defense minister; Brigade Commander Leopoldo Rivas Alfaro, defense deputy minister; and other senior officers of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS].

The PDRY defense minister heads a delegation that includes the director of foreign affairs of the armed forces.

Qasim met later with Defense Minister Ortega Saavedra, Deputy Defense Minister Rivas Alfaro and other EPS officers. Yesterday afternoon, the visiting delegation placed a floral wreath at the mausoleum of Carlos Fonseca, commander in chief of the revolution.

Denounces Anti-Sandinist Threat

PA281718 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] PDRY Defense Minister Brig Gen Salih Muslih Qasim has referred to U.S. imperialism's threat to invade Nicaragua using Honduran territory, saying that he condemns this type of activity because it goes against a people that wants peace. The Yemeni minister said he is impressed with the high morale of the border guards and the Sandinist People's Militia [MPS]. Let's listen to the PDRY defense minister.

[Begin recording -- Qasim -- in Arabic with simultaneous translation into Spanish] I want to state the impressions of the Yemen Socialist Party. I observed the spirit of a people defending their right to a new life.

[Question] Would you like to deliver a message to the people of Sandino at this time.

[Answer indistinct] [end recording]

NONALIGNED DOCUMENTS ON U.S. PLANS CITED

PA252332 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] New York -- The United States has prepared a military operation with enough potential to engage in a lengthy, even multilateral confrontation with the Sandinist people's revolution, under the pretext of curbing an alleged communist escalation, says a report issued by the Nonaligned Movement and delivered yesterday to the UN Security Council.

According to the report, the primary base for this operation will be in Puerto Lempira, Honduras, with four C-5A Galaxy and six C-141 Starlifter aircraft to transport U.S. Air Force paratroopers, two 8,800-ton ships to transport equipment and troops and a satellite communications center equipped with a mobile radar base and electronic equipment -- all of which would permit almost absolute control of the rugged area bordering Nicaragua.

The document adds that the current situation in the region is one of a militarized zone, with characteristics that are even graver than those in the Middle East, and that it could lead to an uncontrollable regional conflict if the community of nations does not make an urgent effort to contain the situation.

The report also declares the nonaligned countries' concern over the threat of an eventual armed confrontation between Honduras and Nicaragua, which might quickly extend to other nations of the disturbed Central American isthmus.

REAGAN CHARGES DESCRIBED AS 'RIDICULOUS'

PA281857 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] President Reagan's most recent appearance on television could be considered ridiculous if it weren't for the aggressive spirit that prevailed in his statements.

When referring to the Central American situation, he repeated the old, absurd and hackneyed charges regarding the alleged Cuban and Soviet participation in the revolutionary struggles of the peoples of the region. This time he accompanied his statements with a series of photographs which, according to him, confirm the existence of communist interference on this continent.

The photographs included one of the international airport under construction on the island of Grenada and another of the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport in Managua, at which three Soviet-made helicopters can be seen.

Reagan said that both things, the Grenada airport and the three helicopters at the Nicaraguan airport, constitute a threat to U.S. national security.

The U.S. President, stumbling from the ridiculous to the cynical, confessed that the photographs had been taken by U.S. spy planes that overfly the countries of the region, which constitutes an open violation of basic international laws. In this manner, he gave an air of mystery to something that is by no means mysterious.

The Grenada Revolutionary Government itself has distributed photographs of the airport under construction, the purpose of which is to contribute to the development of tourism in that country. Reagan's statement that Grenada's construction of a large airport raises suspicion because the island has only approximately 100,000 inhabitants is another charge that is as ridiculous as it is ill-intentioned. Airports as large or even larger than the Grenada airport exist on other small Caribbean islands such as Aruba, Antigua, Barbados, Curacao or St Lucia, and none of them scares Reagan. Of course, for Reagan, what makes the Grenada airport dangerous is that an anti-imperialist revolutionary process is underway in this country.

The other photograph presented by the U.S. President as evidence that Nicaragua threatens U.S. national security, the one of three helicopters at Sandino Airport in Managua, constitutes another ridiculous move by Reagan, and it is sure proof that the United States shamelessly interferes in the internal affairs of other countries. Who has told Reagan that Nicaragua or any other country has to ask the White House's permission to have helicopters? In fact, one of the helicopters photographed in Nicaragua was used to transport Pope John Paul II during his recent visit to that Central American country. Furthermore, the helicopters are not hidden. It was not necessary to violate Nicaragua's airspace to photograph them. It could have been done by any of the agents that the imperialists still have in Nicaraguan territory.

The truth is that no one is going to be so ridiculous as to believe President Reagan when he says that Grenada and Nicaragua pose a threat to the national security of the United States, the most powerful imperialist power that humanity has ever known. These statements can have no objective other than to try to justify an act of aggression against Grenada and Nicaragua to the U.S. and international public, and also to justify the astronomical war budget that Reagan has requested at the expense of cutting funds for social services.

The real threat to the national security of all the other countries and to world peace is the United States and its President, Ronald Reagan, the classic wolf in sheep's clothing. The aggressive plans against Nicaragua organized by Washington, using the fascist Honduran regime as intermediary, are also a grave threat to peace.

CASTRO STATES SUPPORT FOR FRONTLINE STATES

PA281501 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Mar

[Text] Cuban Leader Fidel Castro has stated his support for the Frontline States -- Angola, Botswana, Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These countries are being attacked by the South African racist regime. Fidel Castro called for the unmasking of U.S. Government maneuvers aimed at thwarting Namibia's independence efforts.

In a message sent to the International Conference of Solidarity with the Frontline States being held in Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, Fidel Castro condemned the apartheid regime that has turned South Africa into a huge jail.

The message stated that the Frontline States are a symbol of a dignified, independent Africa against the remnants of racism and colonialism, and noted that now, more than ever, it is necessary to be in solidarity with the African people enduring aggression, threats, pressure and brutal internal repression from the South African racist regime.

A condemnation of South Africa is a condemnation of the imperialist powers that back and sustain it, a condemnation of the United States, first of all, the message from Fidel Castro stated. The message was read at the plenary meeting of the conference by Armando Acosta, alternate member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba and head of the Cuban delegation at this meeting.

In his speech, Armando Acosta said that one of the main objectives of the imperialists and the racists is to destroy Angola because of the support that it gives the SWAPO patriots. He accused the United States of using its veto power in the United Nations to block sanctions against the Pretoria racist regime.

Acosta Speech

FL281539 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Armando Acosta, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, has denounced, in Lisbon, the U.S.-South African collusion against the democratic and revolutionary process in Southern Africa. The Cuban leader, who headed the party's delegation to the International Conference of Solidarity with Frontline States spoke to Sunday's session of that meeting, which concluded in Lisbon last night.

Acosta stressed that Angola is one of the main targets of this alliance of Yankee imperialism and South African racism because of the Angolan people's firm support for SWAPO, the exclusive and legitimate representative of the Namibian people. The Cuban leader noted that Washington is using its alleged search for a negotiated solution for Namibia as a pretext to hide its true objective: To continue, together with South Africa, to plunder natural resources and other wealth from Namibia. The Frontline States play a key role in the struggle for decolonization in Africa and have given refuge to other patriots of the region. We are convinced, Acosta concluded, that the Namibian people will fight to their final victory in the face of the intransigence of the United States and South Africa.

PEACE COMMITTEE ASKS SUPPORT FOR NICARAGUA

PA281516 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, 28 Mar (EFE) -- The Dominican Peace Committee has requested solidarity with Nicaragua in view of the destabilization plans underway against the Sandinist Government. In a communique published today, the committee stated that "all conscientious men aware of the risks involved in the internationalization of the fighting must denounce and condemn the recent manifestations of intervention by the U.S. Government as well as the role of Honduras." It added that if the Dominican Republic intends to mediate together with Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia in the critical situation, it must so demonstrate it.

BRIEFS

NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR'S CREDENTIALS -- President Salvador Jorge Blanco today will receive the credentials of the new Norwegian ambassador to the Dominican Republic, Mr (Rolf Nielsen). Mr (Nielsen) has served as Norwegian ambassador to Chile, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. [Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Mar 83 FL]

GRENADA

BISHOP ON REAGAN SPEECH, CIA ACTIVITIES

FL260250 St Georges Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Rebroadcast of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop's address to the nation at 0000 GMT on 24 March -- recorded]

[Text] Sisters and brothers of our beloved revolutionary homeland, patriots:

Our revolution is in serious danger, in that our country is facing grevious threats since our glorious March 13th revolution. From the evidence in our possession, we are convinced that an armed attack against our country by counterrevolutionaries and mercenaries, organized, financed, trained and directed by United States imperialism, is imminent and can come any day now. Only a few days ago, on March 17th to be precise, at our 1983 budget plan presentation, I revealed the analysis of our authorities that a warmongering Reagan was becoming increasingly desperate and in that desperation the possibility of military intervention against the revolutionary processes in the region, particularly Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada, seemed inevitable. This seemed the only way out for the fascist cliques in Washington since their arrogant designs for regional and world domination continue today.

The continuing economic crisis in the United States and its recession, the increasing successes of the popular liberation movements -- particularly in El Salvador -- the continued deepening and strengthening of the revolutionary processes in Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada, the total collapse of Reagan's so-called Caribbean Basin Initiative and a growing popular opposition in the United States and internationally to his mad nuclear policies have made imperialism more desperate and more determined to halt the revolutionary processes in the region. Less than 36 hours after we publicly revealed that our intelligence sources and our analysis suggested, less than 36 hours after we alerted our people of the possible danger, an all-out invasion of Nicaragua was in fact launched. A large contingent of Somozista counterrevolutionaries, armed, trained, financed and directed by the CIA was dropped by airplanes into Nicaragua, only 120 miles from its capital. It is important to note comrades that this invasion (?was) exactly 3 days after the statement by the United States chief of naval operations, Adm James Watson, that the time had come, to quote him, for the United States to put some teeth behind our rhetoric. In other words, he was saying that the United States must back up its threats with military action.

Sisters and brothers, we now have concrete intelligence information which confirms the view that the revolution will be faced with military aggression from imperialism. With the attack against Nicaragua, the dangers facing us are more real and more urgent. For some time now our intelligence services have been gathering information on counterrevolutionary groups who have publicly declared their intention to overthrow revolutionary governments in the region and in particular our government in Grenada. What we have discovered as a result of [words indistinct] is:

Firstly, that a team of counterrevolutionaries, Grenadians and non-Grenadians have been meeting more frequently in recent months.

Secondly, that opportunists and reactionary elements who aspire to grab power have begun to resolve their leadership differences with the aim of creating a more united counterrevolutionary front.

Thirdly, that their coordination with the Central Intelligence Agency -- the CIA -- has stepped up.

Fourthly, that they have already received direct assistance from the CIA in the form of money, arms and training, and they have also received offers of transportation, logistical support and supplies and an undertaking that immediately on launching their attack their declared counterrevolutionary government will receive United States recognition.

Fifthly, we have been able to discover the names and full background of the main CIA case officer responsible for coordinating the present plot. We know his name. We know where he has worked before. We know what his previous activities have been and know which other revolutionary processes he has attempted to subert in recent times.

Sixthly, another CIA case officer involved in this operation is known to have been involved in directing and masterminding the operations to assassinate the leadership that resulted in the murderous June 19th bomb blast.

Seventhly, these elements have established direct links with the Cuban exile group which was responsible for Air Cubana disaster and also with Somozista counterrevolutionary elements who are right now involved in the invasion of Nicaragua.

Eighthly, with the assistance of the CIA, these elements have been able to get some of the criminal elements which (?to be) used in the invasion of our country, trained in Miami in some of the same camps in which the Somozista "contras" and various other mercenaries have been trained.

Ninthly, as part of their planning process, the CIA helped to allocate different sets of these criminal counterrevolutionaries for the physical attack against Nicaragua and Grenada, and they decided several weeks ago to attack during this precise period in order to coincide with massive military maneuvers taking place in our region at this time and as a culmination of the major propaganda offensive of Reagan and his ceaseless comments against the revolutionary processes in the region.

The tenth point, the main base of operations and activities of these elements is one of our neighboring territories only a few miles away from Grenada.

Eleventh, as a result of all this [words indistinct] we have been able, not only to uncover the actual plan to overthrow our government and turn back our revolution, but also the approximate number of men they hope to use, the approximate number and type of arms they possess and the kind of logistical support they hope to receive. We know comrades the target they intend to destroy. We know many of the (?forces) they intend to arrange, those they plan to kill and how they plan to strike terror and fear among the broad masses.

And twelfth and finally, it is necessary to (?reemphasize), to doubtly emphasized that we know the actual period in the near future that they are hoping to use to launch their murderous attack. [Words indistinct] considering the clear and disturbing patterns of United States intervention and aggression in our region and the world, the large-scale invasion of Nicaragua now taking place, we have concluded that the danger we perceive in this period is real and imminent.

When the President of the United States of America, who is also Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, states publicly and clearly that tiny Grenada is a threat to the national security of the mighty and powerful United States of America and when his top advisors and military personnel indicate that the time has come to put teeth into their rhetoric, then it is clear that Goliath has finally turned his full attention to David.

When the Commander-in-Chief of the most sophisticated, most advanced and largest Armed Forces in the world chooses to clasify a small, proud and determined people as a threat to his national security, then this must be cause for serious concern. We have to ask ourselves, why would Reagan's most senior officials, including his vice president, George Bush -- a former chief of the CIA -- his secretary of state, William Shultz [name as heard], his secretary for defense, Caspar Weinberger and his deputy secretary of defense, Nestor Sanchez [title as heard], all choose to make slanderous statements if this were not to provide the justification for this planned aggression against our country.

The United States Government, sisters and brothers, has a well-documented history of dealing with countries which it has deemed threats to its national security. The United States has intervened militarily, in this region alone, well over 100 times in the past 100 years (?over) its so-called national security interests, and although the information on this current threat is by far the most detailed and specific that we have had of any plot, and although this threat is by far the most dangerous that we have ever faced, yet some of our people are saying that there have been other occasions when we have had call for justified concern that our revolution was threatened. That is true comrades, and we must admit it. But what is important for us to stress tonight, is that on all previous occasions we forced our enemies to change their plans at the last minute, because we were successfully able to mobilize regional and international public opinion in our defense. In other words, we were able to alert the world to the danger that we faced and the world took up with us.

The best example of this that I can give you tonight is the Amber and the Ambereen maneuvers conducted by the United States in August 1981 off Puerto Rico, as a full-scale dress rehearsal for an invasion of our country. Once we had received (?our precoup) from the lips of the man in charge of the operation, Rear Admiral McKenzie, that this maneuver was in fact a trial-run for the actual invasion of our beloved homeland, we immediately went on a political and diplomatic offensive to alert the world of the threat facing us, to call for international solidarity and to request our friends to pressure the United States not to carry out its aggressive plans. We informed the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, the OAS and other regional and international organizations of the grave situation facing us. We also informed peaceloving and friendly governments, political parties, pressure groups and other organizations of the danger. In fact, literally hundreds of cables, telexes, telephone calls, letters and so on, were made or sent to virtually all parts of the world. It was fortunate for us that the conscience of mankind and the force of world public opinion on all continents responded readily to our calls. In fact, at a recent summit, the head of a particular government informed us of his government's concern at the time of the Amber and Ambereen threats, and the action which he had taken at that time in calling in the United States Ambassador resident in his country to demand an explanation. This particular country, we must emphasize, is tens of thousands of miles away from Grenada.

As a result of these and other experiences, we now fully understand and appreciate the tremendous importance and impact of international public opinion. And on this occasion we are again taking the necessary steps to alert and mobilize regional and international public opinion. But comrades, there is another very important lesson which we have also learned, and that is: Whenever our country is in danger, whenever our revolution is threatened, we must go all out to give our people all of the facts, to fully alert them as to the precise nature of the danger and to call upon them to mobilize and organize themselves in defense of our revolution. That is why, apart from mobilizing international public opinion to stand up with us at the time of the Amber and the Ambereen threats, we also mobilized our people to respond decisively with the successful Heroes-of-the Homeland Maneuver which demonstrated to the world that in the defense of this land and the freedom of our sea and sky, we stand as a proud, united, conscious and vigilant people, ready and willing to make the ultimate sacrifice.

Sisters and brothers of our revolutionary homeland, again in the face of this grave danger we need to call our people to arms. Once again we have to shoulder our fundamental responsibility to defend what we fought for and what we have won after many years of bitter struggle. We must never forget that [the] only way in which we can ever guarantee that international public opinion comes to our defense is if we can continue to demonstrate to the world that we are willing, as a united people, every single one of us, to stand up firmly on our own two legs with arms in our hands to fight and to die if necessary in the defense of our beloved homeland. This land is ours, every square inch its soil is ours, every grain of sand is ours, every nutmeg pod is ours, every **beautiful** young pioneer who works on this land is ours. It is therefore our responsibility, and ours alone, to fight to defend our homeland.

Over the past few days, sisters and brothers, our people have demonstrated a genuine spirit of internationalism in the many solidarity statements with heroic Nicaragua, coming from all sections of our working people, our women and our youth, the sense of fraternal anguish and shared identity comes very clearly across. But even so comrades, we must be self-critical and we must admit that we have allowed ourselves to slip into complacency and a degree of over-confidence in responding to the present situation. Some sections of our people, while recognizing that dangers do exist, allow themselves to believe that Grenada will not be invaded because we are a small island or because we share no borders with hostile neighbors as Nicaragua does.

Some also feel that because ours is the only revolution that has not yet seen direct military attack from outside that we will continue to be lucky. And some go as far as to say that with victory on the horizon for our sisters and brothers in Nicaragua, imperialism will not have any mercenaries left to send to Grenada. However, comrades we cannot under any circumstances, and particularly in light of the concrete information we now have, lose sight of the dangerous realities at present. The Seychelles Islands and the Comoros Islands, smaller in size and population than Grenada, were both subject to invasions from the forces of imperialism in the last few years. We should also remember that prior to the 1961 Playa Giron or Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, which resulted in crushing defeat for counterrevolutionary forces supported by U.S. imperialism, there were some Cubans who believed for all kinds of similar reasons that there will be no invasion of Cuba. But the invasion came and today the Cuban revolution is invincible because our heroic Cuban comrades, like our heroic Nicaraguan comrades today, have learned the lessons of history, have learned the need for the permanent vigilance and preparedness of their people. We in Grenada cannot, like ostriches, bury our heads in the sand and ignore these critical lessons of history.

Sisters and brothers of our revolutionary homeland, how do you respond to the present threat. Our fundamental duty is to defend our homeland, to be psychologically, politically and combatively prepared to handle an attack in whatever form and at whatever time Reagan and his warmongers may choose to land on our shores. This means that for those of us who are not yet in the militia we must train for those who are inactive we must reactivate ourselves and begin training again in a serious, disciplined, consistent and revolutionary manner.

There is a role for everyone to play in defense, the elderly as well as the young. We must remember that Reagan and his warmongers will not choose who to kill. The bullet does not spare the young nor does the bullet spare the very elderly or the sick. There are trenches to be dug, vehicles to be loaned or driven, food to be cooked and distributed. (?And there are) systems to be organized, the care of the young and elderly to be guaranteed and many, many more specific tasks to be accomplished. In addition, therefore, to our number one task of recruitment into the militia, there are other measures to be taken to strengthen our defense capacity.

There will be immediate recruitment into some sections of our People's Revolutionary Army and Grenada Police Service. Our Revolutionary Armed Forces will stage a massive military maneuver from the 21st through the 24th of April. This maneuver which we are calling the Jerry Meyer Richardson Defense of the Homeland Maneuver, will again demonstrate to imperialism that we are a united, strong and vigilant people who will never give up.

Sisters and Brothers of our revolutionary homeland, let us insure that Reagan and his warmongerers never ever turn back the forward march of our people and revolution. The work that we are doing today in the building of a people's economy and the construction of a new infrastructure is laying the basis for a secure future for all, repeat all of our people. Let us do everything in our power to insure that that secure future is not unduly disturbed by the terrible loss of life, property and the mass suffering and destruction which any invasion that we are not prepared to withstand is bound to bring. Notwithstanding the uncertainty posed by this present threat, let us continue to work with discipline, determination and serene confidence towards the glorious day when there will be no unemployment in our country, when each and every family will have a decent living, when every man, woman and child is guaranteed their total rights to education, health and social security and, as we prepare to deal with this imminent threat, let us remember that our sisters and brothers, the brave sons and daughters of Sandino's Nicaragua, are continuing their fair struggle to crush the forces of counterrevolution and United States imperialism.

According to inside reports, and information supplied to us today, 500 well-trained counterrevolutionaries were parachuted into Nicaragua days in advance of the main force and these 500 are right now being supplied by planes coming from Honduras. At the same time, 1,500 more are now inside Nicaragua on their way to join the advance group of 500 and a further 2,500 plus are concentrated on the border with Honduras, are waiting their turn to massacre innocent women and children in their vain hope to turn back the heroic Nicaraguan revolution. But while we in Grenada must unhesitatingly and firmly condemn these acts of aggression against our sisters and brothers of revolutionary Nicaragua, we must at the same time, in a clear, resounding and unequivocal voice join the rest of progressive mankind in condemning the active involvement of Israeli and Honduran army personnel, including the direct bombing of two positions in Nicaragua by Honduran military forces in this open and barbarous assault and onslaught on the free and sovereign soil of Nicaragua.

But it is clear to us that no amount of arms and weapons of war can hinder the onward march of the revolutionary process taking place in Nicaragua and we once again tonight reaffirm to the sons and daughters of Sandino our full, unswerving and permanent solidarity with them and their process. Let us take careful note, sisters and brothers, of the fact that these counterrevolutionary elements were sent in advance of the main force, just like it happened in the attacks on the Seychelles and the Comoros islands. Let us also observe that they are receiving regular supplies by enemy planes and that more elements are waiting right now to move in. Let us observe these facts, learn the lessons, apply them to our own situation.

With our information, with these examples both historical and present we ought not to be taken unprepared. That would be a crime against our past, our present and our future. Let us together, insure that we come out of this period stronger in unity, more fortified in spirit, firmer in our determination and more organized in our democratic structures so that we will be able to respond to future threats like second nature, because of our constant preparedness.

And sisters and brothers, in your name in the name of our free people and our revolution, even at this late hour, we issue another call for sanity. We want to repeat and to emphasize that our preference is for peace and normal relations with the U.S. Administration.

We understand very clearly that only an environment of peace will allow us the opportunity to continue to develop our economy, raise our academic and skills levels and our political consciousness and bring more and more benefits to our people. We do not want war. We have never wanted war. But equally we are not prepared to give up our birthright or to allow others, no matter how big and powerful they are, to shape our destiny for us or to tell us what we can do, when we can do it amd how we must do it.

Our enemies had better try to understand the deep pride and dignity of our people and the courageous way in which we have always faced up to difficulties. They will do well to recall the heroic history of trouble and resistance of our people from the days of [name indistinct] through Butler and Marishaw right up to the present moment. They had better remember the vanguard rule of our glorious party The New Jewel Movement, which has mobilized, organized and led our people through the years of terror and repression of the Gairy dictatorship right up to the seizure of state power and the dawning of the new day of liberation and freedom, which came to our country on the 13th of March 1979.

There is no doubt; there can be no doubt that we are proud and loving people, but there is equally no doubt that we are proud and courageous people who'll always fight to defend our dignity, our freedom and our homeland. What is needed from us as a people at this time is to be more self-critical, so that we will make sure that we never allow ourselves to slip back into complacency, to make sure that we are always as ready to defend our homeland as we are to continue to build it, to make sure that we never again allow our militia duties to be taken lightly, to make sure that once we regain our fighting strength and vigor of August 1981, when we were responding to the Amber and Ambereen threat, that we do not allow ourselves to ever lose that vigor and strength again.

Our watchword, sisters and brothers, must forever be calm and calculated in the fulfillment of our daily task: Always vigilant, always willing to work, always ready to study, always able to produce yet always ready, prepared, confident and assured of victory whenever and however Reagan and his warlords strike.

Long live the fighting spirit, unity and determination of our heroic Grenadian people.
Long live our revolutionary armed forces.
Long live our Revolutionary Peoples Militia.
Long live the Grenadian revolution.
Forward ever. Backward never.

WINDWARD ISLANDS BANANA GROWERS DISCUSS PROBLEMS

FL281845 Bridgetown CANA in English 2020 GMT 26 Mar 83

[By George Worme]

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, Mar 26 CANA -- Windward Islands' banana officials have completed a two-day meeting on problems facing their industries but did not discuss the urgent issue of a review of the present contractual agreement with Geest Industries, which sells their bananas on the British market.

A communique issued by the Windward Islands Banana Growers Association (Winban) today said the meeting, which was attended by directors, representatives and advisors of the growers association from Grenada, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica focused on the current situation and problems facing the industry.

The communique stated that foremost on the agenda was the low prices received by winban for the sale of bananas despite the reasonable price levels for bananas on the British market.

Winban President Harry Atkinson told CANA that the meeting did not discuss the contractual arrangement with Geest, but the issue would be studied when the directors meet on April 12 in St Lucia. Mr Atkinson said that as far as contract agreement question was concerned, the different Windward Islands would first have to study a report on the issue submitted by a top official of the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) before the organisation makes any approach to Geest.

Mr Atkinson has said the four islands are expected to produce 130,000 tonnes of bananas this year. Geest had requested 140,000 for markets in the United Kingdom. The communique said that during the meeting Winban banana officials held discussions with a Geest delegation led by Ray Hilbourne, the company's director responsible for marketing.

The release said these discussions focused on a review of the status of the British market for Winward Islands bananas, aspects of volume, quality and prices, supplies of competitive fruit and the protection of the island's traditional market, as well as the continuing decline in growers incomes and the present and future effects on production and quality. It stated that Geest "confirmed an immediate increase in the green market price of bananas for the next week and guaranteed a further substantial increase in the green market price the following week." No figures were given.

"The current shortage of fruit from dollar sources is expected to result in the rallying of the market and the better distribution of the fruit from which it is expected that a favourable effect on prices over the next six months would result," the Winban release said.

RASCHID, CUBA'S LAGE ADDRESS JOINT COMMISSION

FL252125 Bridgetown CANA in English 2012 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 25, CANA -- The eighth meeting of the Guyana-Cuba Joint Commission opened in Georgetown at the weekend with minister in the president's office, Harun Raschid, underlining the need for greater cooperation among developing countries in combatting the global economic crisis. "It is only through collective strength that the developing countries can hope to protect their independence and security," he told the meeting here. Mr Raschid described the Commission as part of the process of cooperation and said Guyana and Cuba "shared histories and common sufferings which serve as an unbreakable bond." "Cuba's assistance to Guyana in areas such as education and medicine is highly appreciated," he added. Describing the relations between the two countries as "excellent," the minister said both countries were victims of "well orchestrated campaigns of destabilisation." He said Guyana, like Cuba, had made significiant strides in socialist transformation and would continue to defend its socialist policies.

Cuba's minister of iron and steel works, Marcos Lage said: "Guyana and Cuba are both poor countries and must work together in seeking possible solutions to difficulties being experienced as a result of the Cuoooopon [as received]." Working groups set up by the conference will deal with agricultural issues, economic and industrial cooperation, trade and educational and cultural cooperation. A joint forestry venture, salt extraction, pharamaceuticals, spare parts and industrial cooperation are other areas to be considered.

PEACE COUNCIL CONDEMNS INVASION OF NICARAGUA

FL252105 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2030 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] The Guyana Peace Council has expressed strong condemnation over the invasion of the Republic of Nicaragua by gangs of counterrevolutionaries. The members of the Peace Council demanded that an end be put to the aggression against the Nicaraguan revolution by the United States and Honduras. The Council said that U.S. imperialism was kindling a war in Central America, which can be clearly seen by the invasion of Nicaragua. They say this is evidence of the intention of the forces of imperialism and reaction which are to destroy the progressive gains of the Nicaraguan people by any means.